FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 2019 **SINCE 1845**

THE STRAITS TIMES

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Top of the News Design contest for Founders Memorial **A8**



Home SIA fires pilot who failed alcohol test B4 • World US shutdown could be longest in history A10&11

Talks lay foundation for future trade deal, says China

Progress on issues such as IP and forced tech transfers; experts optimistic of deal by March 1

Danson Cheong

China Correspondent In Beijing

The just-concluded trade discussions between the United States and China have laid the foundation for a future deal, with progress being made on thorny issues including forced technology transfers and intellectual property protection, China's Ministry of Commerce (Mofcom) said yesterday.

While differences remain, experts are optimistic that the two sides will be able to reach an agreement on trade by March 1, the deadline before the US imposes heightened tariffs on Chinese goods.

Mofcom said both sides carried out "extensive, in-depth and detailed exchanges" on trade and structural issues.

While less effusive, a statement released earlier by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) indicated that the talks had covered a broad range of areas on which the two sides have differed.

It said that among the topics discussed were the "needed structural changes in China with respect to forced technology transfer, intellectual property protection, non-tariff barriers, cyber intrusions and cyber theft of trade secrets for commercial purposes, services and agriculture".

Beijing said that the three-day closed-door talks, which ended on Wednesday, "enhanced mutual understanding and established a foundation for solving each other's concerns".

The negotiations now pave the way for both countries' top negotiators – US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He – to thrash out a deal. Mr Liu is expected to travel to Washington later this month for further talks.

The wide-ranging discussions in Beijing covered "structural issues" that the Americans have long complained about.

Mofcom spokesman Gao Feng said that these issues were an important item of the negotiations, and that progress has been made. Washington added that the talks

also focused on "China's pledge to purchase a substantial amount of agricultural, energy, manufactured goods, and other products and services from the US".

"The officials also discussed the need for any agreement to provide for complete implementation subject to ongoing verification and effective enforcement," it went on to say.

Global Times editor Hu Xijin said that of the issues raised, the trade imbalance problem was 'solved most smoothly".

"In other respects, China accepted parts that are in line with its reform, but rejected requests that harm its national security," Mr Hu tweeted yesterday.

The talks were initially scheduled to end on Tuesday, but extended past their deadline.

They were the first face-to-face meetings since Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump brokered a 90-day truce on trade last month.

The trade war has seen both sides impose tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars worth of goods from each other.

Experts say that recent remarks from senior leaders on both sides indicate there is political will to reach a deal.

Professor Zhu Feng, director of Nanjing University's Institute of International Studies, said that neither side would be able to shift position after just one round of talks.

"There are a lot of different opinions and disputes, but both sides need these kind of collisions at this time, and to make known their demands, positions and views to the other party," he said, adding that the next round of talks would be about bridging these differences.

Associate Professor Li Mingjiang of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies said that moving forward, Washington would likely drop some of its demands on China's structural reforms.

"If that turns out to be the case, I think some sort of agreement is very likely," he said.

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SEE TOP OF THE NEWS A6

Singtel enters electricity retail market with tie-up

Cheryl Teh

Telco giant Singtel is entering the electricity retail business for the first time, following in the footsteps of rivals StarHub and M1, although the former pulled out after a brief foray.

Through new division Singtel Power, the telco hopes to entice customers with electricity plans which include discounts on broadband services and mobile phones.

Singtel is tying up with YTL PowerSeraya's integrated energy provider unit Geneco, similar to M1's tie-up with Keppel Electric.

With customers being able to sign up for the plans in its retail stores as well as on its website, Singtel's consumer division chief executive Yuen Kuan Moon said: "We are excited to be a convenient one-stop shop for their power and communications needs."

In March last year, StarHub joined forces with electricity retailer Sunseap to sell clean energy subscription plans, but StarHub subsequently pulled the plug on the programme on Sept 21, having exited the partnership.

M1 and Keppel announced their joint venture on Oct 31 last year, and began providing electricity plans on Nov 1, when the Open Electricity

Singtel Power/Geneco electricity plans

	Contract term	Singtel Power/Geneco electricity plan	Rate (including GST)	Estimated savings in reference to Q1 2019 regulated tariff*
Fived price plane	36 months	Get It Fixed 36	17.88 cents per kWh	30%
Fixed-price plans	24 months	Get It Fixed 24	17.98 cents per kWh	30%
Discount off the Regulated Tariff plan	24 months	Get It Less 24	22% off regulated tariff	22%

NOTE: *Q1 2019 regulated tariff (including 7% GST) = 25.52 cents per kWh Terms and conditions apply and rates are subject to change Visit bit.ly/singtelpowertcs for full terms and conditions.

Sources: GENECO, SINGTEL STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Market (OEM) was launched.

Singtel hopes to leverage YTL PowerSeraya's industry experience, while YTL Power is looking to benefit from Singtel's wide reach.

YTL Power's executive director Yeoh Keong Hann said: "Working with Singtel, we aim to offer Singaporeans easy access to better energy plans, with the option of valueadded services from Singtel."

Singtel is offering a rate of 17.98 on a 24-month contract, and customers on a Singtel 1Gbps fibre broadband plan will enjoy a month of free broadband and an \$80 mobile handset discount.

M1 is offering a year's free subscription to the 5GB for \$5 mobile data plan, or two months free for its

fibre broadband 1Gbps plan, as part of its electricity offering. It charges the same rate for electricity as Singtel for its 24-month contract.

Partnerships between telcos and electricity providers make for good business and each can leverage the other's strengths, and the bundles which telcos can provide could give them the edge in the electricity retail market, said Professor Subodh Gautam Mhaisalkar, cents per kWh for a fixed-rate plan executive director of the Energy Research Institute at Nanyang Technological University.

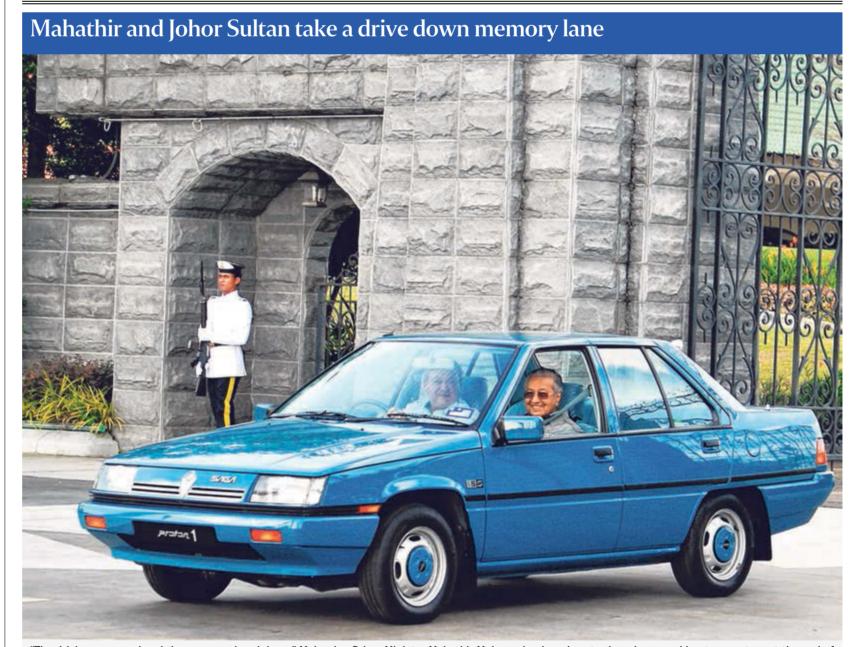
"Partnerships with companies strong in data analytics could bring new innovations that could benefit customers," he added.

The OEM, which was piloted in Jurong last April, allows households and businesses to buy electricity produced by power plants through a retailer with a price plan that best meets their needs.

There are 13 retailers, including Geneco, in the Energy Market Authority's approved list of retailers. The OEM, which currently covers the west, north and some parts of central Singapore, will cover the entire island by May.

Singtel fibre customer Christina Yeo, 47, who lives in Choa Chu Kang, is hoping to benefit from extra savings on her electricity usage. But she hopes StarHub will also return to the electricity market so that her son's family "can enjoy discounts on power too".

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"The driving was good and there was no breakdown," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad quipped yesterday when speaking to reporters at the end of his unusual ride to Johor's Senai International Airport from the Johor palace. He was driven by Johor's Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar in a 1985 Proton Saga, Malaysia's first national car. That year, Tun Dr Mahathir, who was also prime minister then, had presented the car bearing the licence plate "Proton 1" to the ruler's late father, Sultan Iskandar Sultan Ismail, who was the reigning Malaysian king at the time. Dr Mahathir and Sultan Ibrahim met yesterday at Johor Baru's Istana Serene for the first time since the Pakatan Harapan alliance won the general election eight months ago. PHOTO: BERNAMA SEE TOP OF THE NEWS A4

Parents turn up for polys' open house

Parents are going back to school, signing up for talks and workshops at the open house held by polytechnics and junior colleges to help their children figure out the next

step in their education journey. Polytechnic officials said that in previous years, only students would turn up. Ngee Ann Polytechnic, which is holding two forums for parents tomorrow, has 500 sign-ups. Nanyang Polytechnic, which has a forum tonight, has over 1,200 sign-ups.

With the O-level results to be re-

of courses that polytechnics offer there are over 200 - and whether the junior college or polytechnic route is better for their children. Education experts said that while

leased on Monday, parents say they

want to better understand the kind

it is encouraging that parents are guiding their children, they should not take over the decision-making process, but instead give their children room to pursue their interests.

SEE HOME B1&2



must-reads for today

1 Air travel worries up US airport security workers and air traffic controllers working without pay have warned that security and safety could be compromised if a government shutdown continues beyond today, when some workers will miss their first pay cheques. WORLD A11



A Transportation Security Administration agent checking travellers' identification at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Virginia on Monday. PHOTO: EPA-EFE

2 Progress in US-China talks

Trade discussions between the United States and China have laid the foundation for a future deal, with progress being made on thorny issues, China's Commerce Ministry said yesterday. Experts are optimistic the two sides will be able to reach an agreement by March 1, when the US imposes heightened tariffs on Chinese goods. TOP OF THE NEWS A1

..... 3 Call to cover security staff

In the light of the stiffer penalties to be meted out to private security officers found guilty of errant behaviour, two labour MPs have urged the Government to review the harassment protection law to cover these officers. This would be in tandem with changes to the Code of Conduct. TOP OF THE NEWS A7

4 Call to denuclearise faster

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has urged North Korea to take bold and concrete measures to speed up denuclearisation. At a New Year press conference yesterday, Mr Moon said China can continue to play a positive role in nudging Pyongyang towards that goal. WORLD A12

5 Blurring labour lines

The wage bill as a proportion of gross domestic product is becoming outdated amid structural changes. A more nuanced approach is needed as the line between labour and capital blurs, says Dr Toh Mun Heng. **OPINION A24**

Nissan Motor from 2022 will be Singapore then will be fully battery-powered or hybrids. The carmaker kicked off the programme by unveiling Leaf, range of at least 250km. HOME B5

Sharp offer for students

The Singapore University of Technology and Design will offer the Honours and Research Programme (Sharp) that allows a group of students to do research on top of their regular academic load. Only 20 out of the 500-strong incoming cohort will be offered the programme, which lets them jump straight into their PhD upon graduation. HOME B6

6 Nissan's electrifying move

All new models launched here by electrified, and the ones arriving in which is powered by battery with a

PHOTO: SIGURDUR RAGNAR EYJOLFSSON

8 Starting work on Amaravati

Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S. Iswaran and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu yesterday unveiled a commemorative plaque as part of the ground-breaking ceremony for the Welcome Gallery. the first structure to be built in the start-up area of the new capital city of Amaravati. BUSINESS C1

Up for the challenge

Sigurdur Ragnar Eyjolfsson (left), who has applied to be the Football Association of Singapore's technical director, says local football faces similar constraints to that in his home country. But Iceland's recent strong improvement in the world game shows that it is possible to succeed with limited resources. **SPORT C9**

10 More on diamonds' history Jeweller Tiffany & Co will provide $customers\,with\,information\,on$ where its diamonds were mined

shoppers, who are more demanding

in an effort to attract younger

and socially conscious. LIFE D10

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VIDEO

Hangout with ST

Multimedia journalists Alyssa Woo and Hairianto Diman discuss this week's hottest topics, such the Singapore Bicentennial and new beginnings for the eight merged junior colleges. http://str.sg/hangout46



VIDEO

Dazzling TVs at CES

Check out some of the new TV technology unveiled at CES 2019, the world's largest consumer electronics trade show, which ends today. http://str.sg/cesTV



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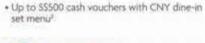
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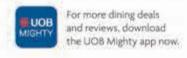


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Left: Johor Menteri Besar Osman Sapian and his entourage on board MMD vessel Tanjung Puteri, in transit to MMD vessel MV Pedoman. Centre: Mr Osman and his entourage being transferred to MV Pedoman within Singapore port limits. Right: Mr Osman (centre, in blue cap) and state exco member Tan Hong Pin (second from left) visiting crew on board MV Pedoman, in a photo Mr Osman posted on his Facebook page. PHOTOS: SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE, OSMAN SAPIAN/FACEBOOK

Johor Menteri Besar visits Malaysian govt vessel off Tuas

Royston Sim Deputy News Editor (Politics)

Johor's Menteri Besar Osman Sapian took to social media late on Wednesday night to share photos of him visiting a Malaysian government vessel anchored in Singapore's territorial waters off Tuas.

His Facebook post came a day after foreign ministers from both countries met in Singapore and agreed to form a working group to study and discuss the dispute over maritime

Mr Osman said he visited officers on duty aboard Malaysian Marine Department (MMD) vessel MV Pedoman. Johor state exco member Tan Hong Pin was also seen in a photo.

"Captain Mohamad Azlan Aziz explained the maritime boundary limits in dispute between two countries," Mr Osman wrote. "I thank, for their service and sacrifice, members of safety agencies and public officers who are committed to monitor and defend our waters."

Also seen in Singapore waters were Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency vessel KM Marudu and MMD vessel Tanjung Puteri, which Mr Osman used to visit MV Pedoman in Singapore waters.

Responding to media queries yesterday, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said there were five Malaysian government vessels in Singapore's waters as of 6pm on Wednesday.

The MPA also confirmed that two vessels remained in Singapore waters as of 6pm yesterday.

On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and his Malaysian counterpart Saifuddin Abdullah had announced that the working group will be headed by permanent secretary for foreign affairs Chee Wee Kiong and his Malaysian counterpart Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob. It will study and discuss the legal and operational matters, to deescalate the situation on the ground and provide a basis for further discussions and negotiations.

The working group being formed



Republic of Singapore Navy littoral mission vessel RSS Justice (at right) and the Malaysian Marine Department vessel MV Pedoman (foreground), which was anchored within Singapore port limits. **SINGAPORE** POLICE FORCE

to discuss issues surrounding the two port limits is to report to the foreign ministers in two months. Both ministers had also stressed the need to keep the situation on the ground

calm to allow talks to take place. Kuala Lumpur had on Oct 25 last year unilaterally extended the port

limits for Johor Baru port, such that they encroach on Singapore's territorial waters off Tuas. As a result, Malaysian government vessels had intruded into Singapore waters.

The new boundary line extends beyond what Malaysia had previously claimed as its own waters in a

1979 map, which Singapore has never accepted. Singapore on Dec 6 extended its own port limits in response, to cover the full extent of the Republic's territorial waters.

After the Tuesday meeting, the foreign ministers also announced that Malaysia will immediately suspend

its permanent restricted area over Pasir Gudang for flights, while Singapore will do the same for new aircraft landing procedures for Seletar Airport. The arrangement will be for a month, in the first instance.

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Mahathir and Johor Sultan meet for first time after polls

They have frank exchange of views and agree to keep communication channels open

JOHOR BARU • It was a drive down memory lane when Johor's ruler, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar, took the wheel of a first-generation Proton Saga and drove Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to the Senai International Airport yesterday.

The vehicle was presented to the ruler's father 34 years ago in 1985, Malaysian media reported.

Sultan Ibrahim personally drove Tun Dr Mahathir about 25km from Istana Bukit Serene in Johor Baru to the airport after their 90-minute meeting at the palace.

The blue car, bearing the number plate "Proton 1", was presented by Dr Mahathir to the late Sultan Iskandar Sultan Ismail, when the late state ruler reigned as Malaysia's king, The Star online reported.

"The driving was good and there was no breakdown," Dr Mahathir joked with reporters later when asked about the journey, as quoted by the MalayMail.com news site.

"The car is 34 years old. It has a manual transmission and has about 22,000km on its odometer. Basically, this is a good endorsement for Proton," he added.

Proton, the national car company, was the brainchild and pet project of Dr Mahathir during his first tenure as prime minister from 1981 to 2003. He is now pushing to have a third national car, the second Malaysian car project being the Perodua in a joint venture with Daihatsu.

The Saga was based on a Mitsubishi model. At the time of its launch, the Saga was sold at RM17,000.

The meeting yesterday was the first time that Dr Mahathir and Sultan Ibrahim had met since the Pakatan Harapan coalition won the



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad with Johor's Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar at Istana Bukit Serene in Johor Baru yesterday. According to a source from the Malaysian Prime Minister's Office, the meeting was held following a request by Sultan Ibrahim a few weeks ago, reported The Star. PHOTO: BERNAMA

THUMBS UP FOR RIDE IN SULTAN'S PROTON SAGA

The driving was good and there was no breakdown. The car is 34 years old. It has a manual transmission and has about 22,000km on its odometer. Basically, this is a good endorsement for Proton.

PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

general election in May last year.

The ruler, on his Facebook page, said that after the meeting, they shared a light meal. Pictures posted on the page showed Johor's Queen, Tuanku Raja Zarith Sofia, joining them for the meal.

According to a source from the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting was held following a request by Sultan Ibrahim a few weeks ago, but what was discussed was unknown, The Star said.

The two leaders had a frank exchange of views and agreed to keep communication channels open to avoid any misunderstanding, The Malaysian Insight news site said.

KL plans new laws to protect sultans from slander, attacks

PUTRAJAYA • Malaysia needs to properly define what statements are considered insulting to the royal institution, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday, as his government announced that it will enact legislation to protect the Malay monarchy from "slander and attacks" following the stepping down of the country's constitutional monarch on Sunday.

"At the moment, our enforcement officers do not understand what is considered insult, so we need to spell out what sort of actions or words can be construed as insults," Tun Dr Mahathir told reporters after attending an official function, as quoted by local media.

"I have said before that Malaysia now practises freedom of speech. With this freedom of speech, if you say something factual, you cannot be prosecuted. On the other hand, if we shut the mouths of everyone until people cannot even speak up against acts of crime, then there will be injustice in the country."

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the arrest of three people for allegedly insulting Kelantan's Sultan Muhammad V after he stepped down as the country's King, or Yang di-Pertuan Agong, in comments posted on Facebook and Twitter.

The trio, two men aged 46 and 27 and a woman aged 26, were detained under the Sedition Act. Critics say the arrests contradict the ruling Pakatan Harapan coalition's promise to abolish the controversial Act that critics say muzzles freedom of speech.

Earlier yesterday, Malaysia's de facto Law Minister Liew Vui Keong said the government will seek to enact new laws and amend existing ones to protect the Malay rulers from slander, the official Bernama news agency reported.

"Ours is a constitutional monarchy. So, the government must always ensure that our rulers are protected from unfounded slander and attacks by irresponsible people," Datuk Liew was quoted as telling reporters after a New Year function at the Prime Minister's Department.

Comments that are currently deemed by law to be seditious include those that "create discontent or disaffection among the subjects of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong or of the ruler of any state".

Offenders can be fined up to RM5,000 (S\$1,650) or jailed for up to three years, or both.

Mr Liew said laws must provide for the punishment of "irresponsible people" who do not respect the institution of the monarchy.

Current penalties for certain offences against the monarchy were too lenient, he was cited by the Bernama news agency as saying.

"The objective is to ensure that our constitutional monarchy will always be protected from all kinds of attack," Mr Liew said. The government will study the constitutional monarchies in Commonwealth countries for the new laws, he added.



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News analysis

Concerns in US over how to enforce terms of a deal

Business community flags absence of mechanism to ensure that Beijing delivers on its promises



Charissa Yong

US Correspondent In Washington

The American business community generally welcomed the latest round of US-China trade talks, but it highlighted the absence of agreement over a concrete way of ensuring that Beijing delivers on its promises, a much tougher challenge for the future.

Implementation of any deal must be "subject to ongoing verification and effective enforcement", a point raised by the US delegation during the talks, the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) said in a statement on Wednesday.

Beijing's statement on the talks, however, made no mention of such a mechanism.

Ensuring Chinese compliance had been a concern of the US going into the talks, with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross calling it the hardest part, in an interview with CNBC on Monday.

"An agreement is fine, but the history has not been so good on compliance. So, the real issue is

what are the enforcement mechanisms, what are the punishments if people don't do what they were supposed to do?" said Mr Ross.

The US-China Business Council has zeroed in on follow-up mechanisms. Its president Craig Allen said in a statement after the talks that the council was pleased with substantive discussions held between the two countries, but emphasised that "progress should include a mechanism for the removal of tariffs and measurable, commercially meaningful outcomes".

"Any agreement between the governments should include positive incentives when China produces milestone deliverables, including a mechanism for removing US tariffs and Chinese retaliatory tariffs as progress is made," said Mr Allen.

The USTR statement said that

The US and China are nearly halfway through their 90-day truce set to expire on March 1, as agreed to by President **Donald Trump and** President Xi Jinping on Dec 1 at the G-20 summit in Argentina.

structural changes in China needed to be achieved, including in the areas of forced technology transfer, intellectual property protection, non-tariff barriers and

cyber-espionage. Other observers were more sceptical, saying that much more still needed to be done.

Beijing's effort so far adds up "to a modest adjustment of Chinese foreign economic policy", Mr Scott Kennedy, a scholar at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, was quoted as saying, "but nowhere close to the great leap in liberalisation that the US and others are seeking".

Mr Steven Okun, senior adviser at McLarty Associates and president of the Asia Business Trade Association, told The Straits Times: "China needs to do more than just purchase US goods to lower the trade deficit. Will China address the 'structural changes' requested to the US' satisfaction? Will they make those changes in a timely fashion and subject to US enforcement?"

The clock is also ticking. The US and China are nearly halfway through their 90-day truce set to expire on March 1, as agreed to by President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping on Dec 1 at the G-20 summit in Argentina.

Mr Okun said: "The USTR statement makes clear much needs to happen in the next 50 days for an end to the trade war. There is unwarranted optimism that a resolution will be reached by March 2."

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American Ambassador to China Terry Branstad and China's Vice-President Wang Qishan at an event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China, in Beijing yesterday. EPA-EFE

Wang Qishan urges deeper US cooperation after talks

BEIJING • China's Vice-President Wang Qishan said cooperation is the best choice for Beijing and Washington, while reiterating that his nation would stay committed to its own path, a day after mid-level trade talks ended on a positive note.

"As China-US relations stand at a new starting line, they must stay committed to our original aspiration and focus on coordination, cooperation and stability," Mr Wang said at a reception in Beijing yesterday to commemorate the 40th anniversary of China and the United States establishing diplomatic ties.

"We must adapt to the new reality, keep looking for and expanding our common interests, deepening and promoting practical cooperation,' he added.

China and the US are trying to resolve an unprecedented trade stand-off, with mid-level talks this week in Beijing ending on an optimistic note - though few details have emerged.

Global stocks have rallied on fresh hope of a breakthrough in the negotiations. The next steps include a possible meeting between Mr Wang and US President Donald Trump at the World Economic Forum later this month.

Mr Wang – a long-time ally of President Xi Jinping – is leading China's team to the annual forum in Davos, Switzerland, and will deliver a keynote address there.

The talk with Mr Trump would take place on the sidelines of the meeting, the South China Morning Post reported.

The event yesterday was attended by members of the US diplomatic and business community in China, including US Ambassador Terry Branstad and head of the American Chamber of Commerce Tim Stratford.

Former US president Richard Nixon's grandson Christopher Nixon Cox and Chinese diplomat Fu Ying were also at the lunch reception.

In November, Mr Wang did little to assuage fears that China and the US are headed for a confrontation that could disrupt the global order.

Beijing remained ready to discuss solutions to the trade conflict, he told Bloomberg's New Economy Forum in November. But he warned that China would not again be "bullied and oppressed by imperialist powers".

"Regardless of how the international landscape changes, China will unswervingly follow its own path, run its own affairs steadfastly and enable its people to have a better life," Mr Wang said yesterday.

China has made a number of concessions since Mr Xi and Mr Trump agreed to a 90-day truce in Argentina on Dec 1, including slashing import tariffs on more than 700 products.

Still, negotiations have been stuck over US demands for deep structural reforms, including stopping forced technology transfers, enforcing intellectual property rights and ending state subsidies for strategic industries.

The Trump administration is pushing for a way to make sure China delivers on its commitments in any trade deal. China said this week's meetings were "extensive, in-depth and detailed", and laid the foundation for a resolution of the conflict. BLOOMBERG

NEW STAGE OF TIES As China-US

relations stand at a new starting line, they must stay committed to our original aspiration and focus on coordination, cooperation and stability. We must adapt to the new reality, keep looking for and expanding our common interests, deepening and promoting practical cooperation.

CHINA'S VICE-PRESIDENT

The trade war

FEB 7, 2018The United States slaps steep safeguard tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines, indicating concerns over China's dominance of the global supply chain.

The US implements tariffs on steel (25 per cent) and aluminium (10 per cent) imports from all nations including China.

China hits back with 25 per cent tariffs on US\$3 billion (S\$4 billion) worth of US imports, from frozen pork and wine to certain fruits and nuts.



Chinese tech company ZTE banned from doing business with US firms for seven years over violation of sanctions on Iran and North Korea.

US and Chinese officials meet for trade talks in Beijing, but no agreement is reached and no statement is released.

Trade talks led by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He begin in Washington.

The US and China reach agreement and issue joint statement. The US agrees to hold off on tariffs and China offers to significantly increase purchases of US goods.

China offers to remove tariffs on US farm products as part of a settlement for the ZTE dispute. China will also cut import duties on cars from 25 per cent to 15 per cent.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Mr Liu meet in Beijing for talks, with China offering to buy US\$25 billion more of US goods in 2018. Mr Ross later announces a deal allowing ZTE to get back into business in the US.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing and they discuss trade and security.

The 25 per cent tariffs by the US on US\$34 billion worth of imports from China come into effect. China responds with similar 25 per cent tariffs on US\$34 billion worth of US imports.

AUG 23

US tariffs on US\$16 billion worth of imports from China take effect, along with China's retaliatory tariffs on US\$16 billion worth of US exports.

SEPT 24



The US imposes 10 per cent tariffs on US\$200 billion worth of Chinese exports until the end of 2018, with that rising to 25 per cent afterwards. China's tariff retaliation on US\$60 billion worth of US goods becomes effective simultaneously.

US President Donald Trump and Mr Xi talk over the phone, and Mr Trump later says he thinks a deal will be reached.

Mr Mnuchin and Mr Liu talk over the phone, but the conversation does not lead to any breakthrough to resolve the tariff dispute.

Mr Xi and US Vice-President Mike Pence trade barbs at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum in Papua New Guinea, which ends without a communique after a dispute over the statement on trade.

DEC 1



Mr Trump and Mr Xi meet at the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires, agree to a truce and talks, and freeze tariffs at the current level for 90 days. The US postpones increase in tariffs on US\$200 billion worth of imports, which was planned for Jan 1, 2019.

JAN 7-9, 2019

US officials visit Beijing for the first sit-down talks since Mr Trump and Mr Xi agreed to a three-month truce.

Sources: REUTERS, BLOOMBERG PHOTOS: AFP, REUTERS STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Protection from Harassment Act

Cover all private security officers, say labour MPs

Appeal comes in the light of stiffer penalties faced by the officers for errant behaviour

Hariz Baharudin

Labour MPs Zainal Sapari and Patrick Tay have urged the Government to review the harassment protection law to cover all private security officers, in the light of harsher penalties they face for errant behaviour such as sleeping on the job.

iour such as sleeping on the job.

"Perhaps it is about time the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reviews the (Protection) from Harassment Act (Poha) to cover all private security officers regardless of their worksite," Mr Zainal said in a Facebook post yesterday.

He made the comments in the post over an incident on Wednesday involving a condominium security officer being verbally abused by a delivery rider for disallowing him to take the lift without the tenant's approval.

The appeal by Mr Zainal, assistant secretary-general of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), comes after The Straits Times reported last month that errant private security officers face stiffer penalties from Jan 1.

Officers who sleep on the job, come to work drunk or display other errant behaviour can be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or both. These offences may also be compounded by a fine, in lieu of prosecution.

There was previously no punishment for errant security officers, and those who did not do their job properly would receive verbal warnings and get suspended or fired.

MHA said the code of conduct is contained in the Schedule of the Private Security Industry (Conduct) Regulations, which allows the police to take action against errant officers who breach this code.

The ST report triggered a debate among netizens, with many saying the penalties were too harsh, while others said the punishments would weed out unprofessional officers.

Mr Zainal said reviewing harassment laws and making them applicable to all security officers would be a move in tandem with changes

to the Code of Conduct.

He said in his post: "After all, with the changes made to the Code of Conduct for Security Officers, the professionalism expected of all security officers must be commensurate with the protection from ha-

rassment given to them."
Mr Zainal, who is chairman of the Security Tripartite Cluster, later told ST: "If we expect a high level of professionalism from private security officers, we must also accord protection to them when they have to deal with members of the public. Ensuring a safe and secure environment transcends any artificial boundary of

public or private common spaces."

Currently, only security officers working in specified places, such as public healthcare institutions and educational institutions, and those who work in public spaces, such as bus interchanges and railway premises, are covered by the Poha.

Those who threaten, abuse or insult public service workers can be fined up to \$5,000, or jailed for up to 12 months, or both.

Mr Tay, who is also NTUC assistant secretary-general, posted a reply to Mr Zainal's post, saying he agreed with him and that other groups of workers like cleaners should be protected too.

In Parliament last November, Mr Tay called for private security officers, as well as cleaners and waste collectors, to be covered as public service workers under the Poha.

In a written reply to Mr Tay, Home Affairs and Law Minister K. Shanmugam said "there are sufficient protections under (the Act) for everyone".

He added: "In general, we consider individuals as public service workers for the purpose of addi-

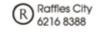
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The upcoming Founders' Memorial at Bay East Garden in Gardens by the Bay is expected to be completed by 2027. The design contest will have two stages, and participants are required to submit designs for the first stage by April. ST PHOTO: ONG WEE JIN

Pedestrian link

bridge (future)

Global design contest for Founders' Memorial

Architects worldwide invited to take part in bid to be appointed for project at the heart of Bay East Garden

An international design contest was launched yesterday to call for proposals for the upcoming Founders' Memorial, which will be constructed in Bay East Garden in Gardens by the Bay.

Political Correspondent

Linette Lai

Architects from all over the world are invited to take part in a bid to be appointed for the project, which will set the tone for the rest of the garden.

The winning design will be picked by a seven-member jury panel chaired by Mr Lee Tzu Yang, who also chairs the Founders' Memorial Committee set up to steer the project.

Mr Lee said that the winning design should "honour the founding values of this country and make excellent use of the site".

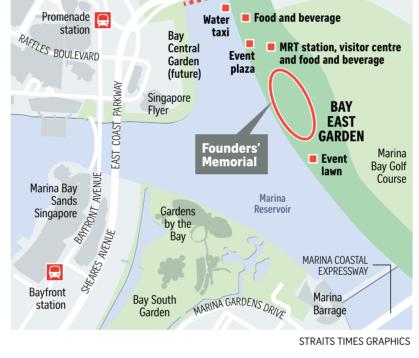
"We envision that it will be a space which everyone of all ages can enjoy and relate to, and an icon that Singaporeans can be proud of and share with our future generations," he said.

"We are not looking for statues. We are not looking for depictions of iconographic people."

Mr Tai Lee Siang, who is also on the jury panel as well as the Founders' Memorial Committee, said the 5ha site must be "properly and carefully planned".

"It will be the focus of Bay East Garden. Its design will set the tone for the rest of the garden," said Mr Tai, executive director (BuildSG) of the Building and Construction Authority.

The Singapore Institute of Architects has been appointed by the Founders' Memorial Committee,



Board, to organise the competition. The contest will have two stages, and participants are required to submit designs for the first stage by April.

through the National Heritage

The jury panel will shortlist up to six designs, and public engagement workshops will be organised to get Singaporeans' thoughts on them.

Shortlisted participants will then further develop their designs for stage two before the winning entry is announced at the start of next year.

The memorial will cover the period in Singapore after World War II to its first few decades of independence, focusing on key milestones and stories in the country's growth.

It will be housed in a garden, within which an indoor gallery will be built. There will likely be permanent and temporary galleries, as well as a visitor centre and multipurpose rooms, which could host school excursions and citizenship ceremonies.

More than 32,000 people have been asked - through dialogues, surveys and workshops - what they want to see at the memorial. Groups of historians, educators, architects and students have also been consulted.

Landscaping will be an important part of the memorial's design, as the visitor journey through the memorial is expected to include outdoor components.

Design proposals will also need to take into account connectivity and accessibility of the site. Plans for the area include public road access, a new pedestrian bridge and a water taxi stop, as well as the recently announced Founders' Memorial MRT station.

International firms will be encour-

Who will pick winning design

Members of the jury panel who will pick the winning design for the Founders' Memorial:

- Mr Lee Tzu Yang, Founders' Memorial Committee chairman and chair of jury panel. Mr Daniel Libeskind, founder and principal
- architect, Studio Libeskind. Mr Jun-ichi Inada, managing director, WIN
- Landscape Planning & Design International. • Mr Tai Lee Siang, executive director
- (BuildSG), Building and Construction Authority.
- Dr Kiat W. Tan, corporate adviser, Gardens by the Bay.
- Ms Fun Siew Leng, chief urban designer, Urban Redevelopment Authority.
- Ms Chang Hwee Nee, chief executive, National Heritage Board.

aged to partner local ones in the first stage, and will have to do so in stage two. This is a statutory requirement and will also ensure that the memorial's designers have the necessary knowledge of Singa-

pore's history, Mr Tai said. "International architects may be creative, but they will need someone who really has the history and the background knowledge to help inspire each other to co-create exciting designs," he said.

The jury panel will also take into consideration whether the project is within budget, although the exact

budget is still being worked out. The memorial is expected to be completed by 2027, and to attract one million visitors a year. For more information about the contest, visit foundersmemorial competition.sg

linettel@sph.com.sg



Lim Jin Ping was intoxicated with amphetamines when he drove his MPV into the sea off Sentosa Cove in 2017. PHOTOS: VIDEO SCREEN GRABS

Jail for drug user who drove his car into waters off Sentosa

Shaffiq Alkhatib

A drug user drove his multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) into the waters off Sentosa Cove in 2017 and had to be rescued.

Lim Jin Ping, 37, admitted that he had smoked amphetamine every day in the week before the incident on Aug 25 that year.

Yesterday, he was sentenced to 11 months and four weeks in jail and also disqualified from driving all classes of vehicles for two years.

The former private-hire car driver pleaded guilty in November last year to two mischief charges, as well as one count each of assault and drug consumption.

An Institute of Mental Health (IMH) report, dated Sept 14, 2017, stated that he was intoxicated with amphetamines, leading to psychotic symptoms such as auditory halluci-

nations and paranoid delusions. The symptoms ceased when he was in remand at IMH.

The court heard that he was admitted to IMH in 2012 and 2015 for drug-induced psychosis after consuming amphetamines.

At about 2pm on Aug 25, 2017, Lim drove to the Sentosa Gateway entrance and smashed through a gantry barrier, causing damage which came to \$1,605.

He then drove against the flow of

traffic at a roundabout towards Tanjong Beach Walk. About six minutes later, he drove through another barrier behind Tanjong Beach Club.

Sentosa ranger Imran Kamarudin, 31, saw the MPV heading towards him. Before he could get out of the way, the car hit the right side of his body, causing him to roll off the bon-

net and onto the ground. Mr Imran and a colleague pursued the car on their bikes as it

headed towards Tanjong Gate. Lim rammed into the closed gate, causing \$2,190.59 worth of damage, and drove against the flow of traffic in Cove Drive.

When he reached the entrance of

W Singapore Sentosa Cove hotel, he made a right turn, driving towards the marina, after which the vehicle plunged into the water.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Yang Ziliang told the court that ship captain David Roberts, 36, who is trained in lifesaving, dived into the sea on seeing what happened.

"David reached through the open driver's window and unbuckled the seat belt of the accused... David used a stone to break the back window of the vehicle and pulled the accused out of the submerged vehicle," the DPP added.

An ambulance took Lim to Singapore General Hospital, where his urine sample showed traces of amphetamine and methamphetamine.

The court was told that Mr Imran had to seek medical attention for injuries, including bruises to the right side of his body and knee. He was granted medical leave until Aug 31, 2017.

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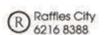
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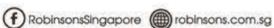
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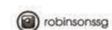








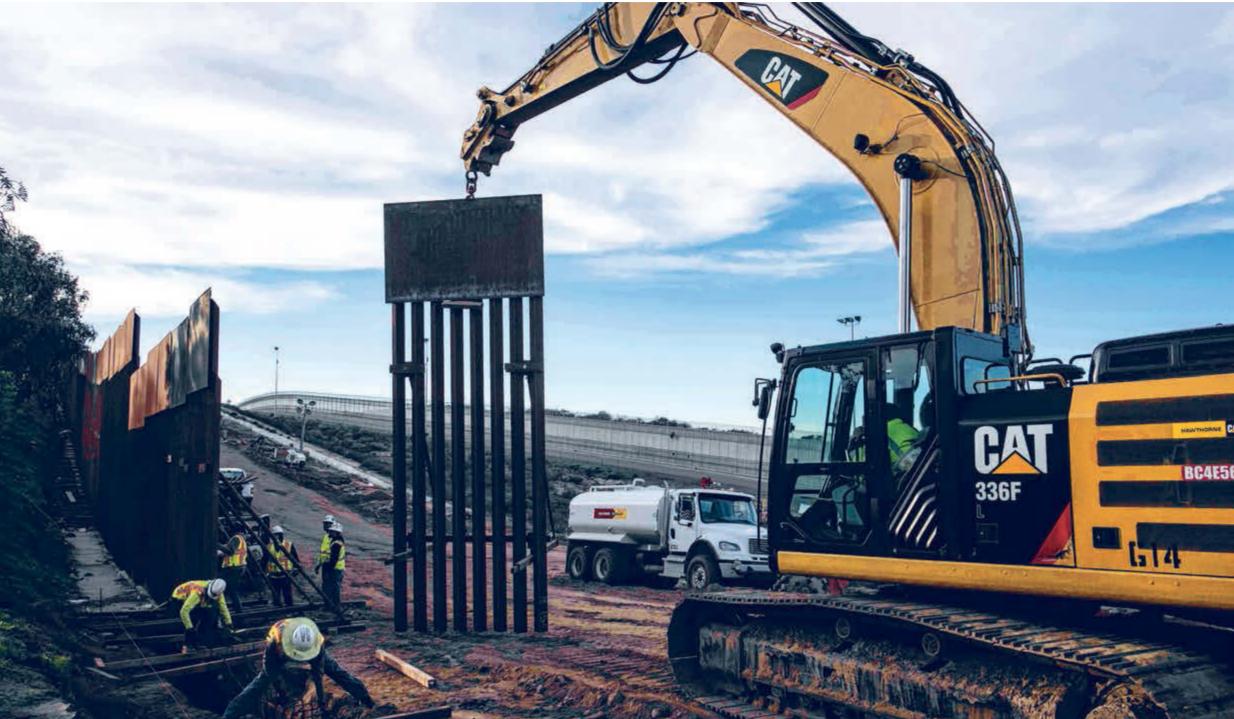




WORLD



WILLIAM LAI TAIWAN PREMIER TO RESIGN WITH ENTIRE CABINET **A19**



A construction crew replacing a section of the US-Mexico border fence in Tijuana, Mexico, on Wednesday. US President Donald Trump wants \$7.7 billion to build a wall to keep out illegal immigrants from Mexico. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

News analysis

With Trump digging in, govt shutdown could set new record

Impasse over wall funding continues as neither Republicans nor Democrats want to lose face



Nirmal Ghosh

US Bureau Chief In Washington

The US' partial federal government shutdown is poised to become the longest in its history, with neither side budging in a gruelling political stand-off over funding for a wall on the country's border with Mexico.

President Donald Trump, who wants US\$5.7 billion (S\$7.7 billion) for the wall – which he now says will be made of steel slats instead of concrete – walked out of a meeting with Democratic Party leaders on Wednesday, calling it a "total waste of time".

Democrats are refusing to agree to his demand, saying the border could be strengthened in smarter ways than by spending so much money on a wall that they deride as an unnecessary "vanity project".

Mr Trump was set to visit the Texas border at McAllen and Rio Grande yesterday. Sections of the border in those areas have been fenced for years; the parts that remain unfenced include the Rio Grande, which is itself part of the border. The visit is not expected to yield any progress, however.

Meanwhile, in just one sign of the potential political cost of what started out as a bold gamble, hundreds of federal workers were planning a protest outside the White House yesterday.

Today will be the first day that some federal employees affected by the shutdown, which started on

Dec 22, will not get their pay cheques – deepening an already widening ripple effect. Paydays vary; some are next Tuesday.

Some 800,000 federal employees are affected, including Transportation Security Administration workers who screen passengers at airports, and food safety inspectors at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Washington Post quoted FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb as saying the agency was putting together a plan to resume inspections of facilities that are deemed "high risk".

But many more Americans are indirectly affected by the shutdown of federal government offices, which will only spread as more offices progressively run out of money.

House Democrats on Wednesday passed a Bill to reopen the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service, since millions of people are due to start filing tax returns.

Eight Republicans voted in favour of the Bill, showing some disagreement in the party over the President's hard line.

But the Bill is unlikely to pass the Senate, because Mr Trump has said he will not sign anything that does not include funding for the wall.

"We're sticking with the President on this," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters as the President visited Capitol Hill to rally the party.

Senator Lindsey Graham said: "The message (from the President) was, hang together." There is thus no sign of either

side giving in over the issue.

There is little incentive to do so for the Democratic Party, which, emboldened by winning back the House in a midterm election last November, cannot appear to back down.

Recent opinion polls which show Americans leaning towards blaming Mr Trump for the shutdown are added incentives for the Democratic Party to not give him what he wants.

The party is willing to give the President more money for border security, but without the wall.

However, the wall was a central

pillar of Mr Trump's presidential campaign, and he has staked his credibility on keeping promises; this one goes to the heart of the visceral fear of illegal immigrants

that he played up in his campaign. Thus, neither can the President back down.

Some analysts believe this makes it more likely that he will declare a state of emergency as a way to decisively end the stalemate without losing face.

Such a declaration is not uncommon. But this time around, it

House Democrats on Wednesday passed a Bill to reopen the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service, since millions of people are due to start filing tax returns... But the Bill is unlikely to pass the Senate, because the President has said he will not sign anything that does not include funding for the wall.

to lose face

would trigger more controversy

and invite legal challenges.
Mr Trump has laid out his case for the wall, casting it as a national security and humanitarian issue, in statements to the media as well as during a prime-time Oval Office address to the nation on Tuesday.

But whether the undoubtedly large numbers of illegal immigrants crossing unguarded sections of the more than 3,000km border constitute an emergency would likely have to be argued in court.

If the President uses emergency powers to order the military to build the wall, that would be challenged in court as well, as a potential abuse of power.

"Donald Trump knows one approach – appeal to the base, secure the base, excite the base," Dr Glenn Altschuler, professor of American studies at Cornell University, told The Straits Times.

"That's the way he emphasises that he is the strongman that his base wants him to be, who is willing to ignore political norms, who doesn't care about constitutional nuances, who isn't interested in checks and balances."

The previous longest federal government shutdown was in 1995-96, when the sitting president was Democrat Bill Clinton but Republicans controlled Congress. That shutdown lasted 21 days.

Republicans refused to pass a spending Bill because they wanted the president to agree to cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Mr Clinton eventually submitted a balanced budget plan and got the Republican Party to pass it, reopening the government. Polls at the time showed the American public blamed the Republicans.

nirmal@sph.com.sg

SEE WORLD A11 & OPINION A25

Options for ending the shutdown

TRUMP AGREES TO COMPROMISE

House Democrats have proposed reopening the federal government, but without funding the wall.

President Donald Trump could either agree to token or partial funding; or signal to the Senate, where it would need 60 per cent approval, that he will sign. But currently he is clearly not in any mood to compromise and risk losing face.

DEMOCRATS CAVE IN

House Democrats could agree to fund the wall. But the Democratic Party would be seen as caving in and handing a major victory to the President, thus losing face with its own base.

TRUMP DECLARES STATE

OF EMERGENCY

Mr Trump could declare a state of emergency and appropriate funds to build the wall, and possibly order the military to build it. This would give him a face-saving way out but trigger controversy by establishing a precedent that he can work around Congress any time he wants to simply by declaring a state of emergency. Such a declaration would be tied up in legal challenges almost immediately, creating a test for the

STALEMATE CONTINUES
The stalemate could continue

American system of co-equal

branches of government.

The stalemate could continue for weeks or even months. This would be unprecedented and the US economy would suffer, and the general public's view of Washington would be even more cynical than it already is.

Nirmal Ghosh



Mr Donald Trump with Republican Senator John Barrasso after a policy luncheon on Wednesday, during which he urged GOP lawmakers to support his wall demand. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Air travel fears up amid US govt shutdown

Airport security could be compromised as staff start missing pay cheques, officials warn

trollers missed work, the Federal Avi-

ation Administration could be

forced to extend the amount of time

between takeoffs and landings,

said controllers often must work overtime and six-day weeks at

short-staffed locations. "If the staffing shortage gets worse, we

will see reduced capacity in the na-

tional airspace system, meaning

more flight delays," he said. REUTERS

which could delay travel, it said. NATCA president Paul Rinaldi

WASHINGTON • US airport security workers and air traffic controllers working without pay have warned that security and safety could be compromised if a government shutdown continues beyond today, when some workers will miss their first pay cheques.

On Wednesday, the 19th day of a partial government shutdown caused by a dispute over funding that President Donald Trump wants for a border wall, he stormed out of talks with Democratic congressional leaders, complaining the meeting was "a total waste of time".

As the effects of the shutdown began to ripple out, the Trump administration insisted that air travel staffing was adequate and travellers had not faced unusual delays.

But union officials said some Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers, who carry out airport security screening, had already quit because of the shutdown and others were considering quitting.

"The loss of (TSA) officers, while we're already short-handed, will create a massive security risk for American travellers since we don't have enough trainees... or the ability to process new hires," said Mr Hydrick Thomas, the TSA council president for the American Federation of Government Employees.

"If this keeps up there are problems that will arise – least of which would be increased wait times for travellers.'

TSA spokesman Michael Bilello said the organisation was hiring officers and working on contingency plans in case the shutdown lasted beyond today, when officers would miss their first pay cheques since the shutdown began on Dec 22.

"There has been no degradation in security effectiveness, and average wait times are well within TSA standards," he said.

He added that there had been no spike in employees quitting, and that on Tuesday, 5 per cent of officers took unscheduled leave, up just slightly from 3.9 per cent the same day last year. It screened 1.73 million passengers and 99.9 per cent of passengers waited less than 30 minutes, the TSA said.

But US Representative Bennie Thompson, chairman of the House Homeland Security committee, questioned how long adequate staffing at airports could continue.

"TSA officers are among the lowest paid federal employees, with many living pay cheque to pay cheque," he wrote. "It is only reasonable to expect officer call-outs and resignations to increase the longer the shutdown lasts, since no employee can be expected to work indefinitely without pay."

Airports Council International-North America, which represents US airports, urged Mr Trump and congressional leaders in a letter to quickly reopen the government.

"TSA staffing shortages brought on by this shutdown are likely to further increase checkpoint wait times and may even lead to the complete closure of some checkpoints," the group said.

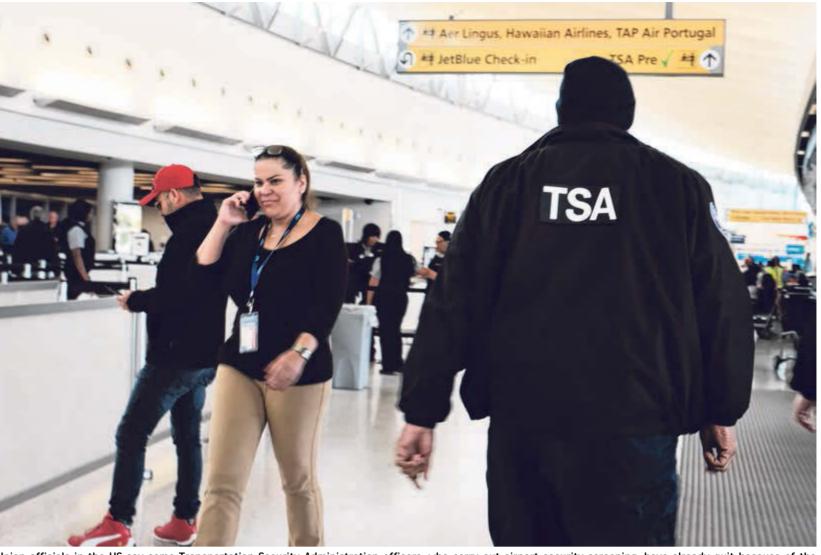
The National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) noted that the number of controllers was already at a 30-year low, with 18 per cent of controllers eligible to retire.

If a significant number of con-

RISK FOR TRAVELLERS

The loss of (TSA) officers, while we're already shorthanded, will create a massive security risk for American travellers since we don't have enough trainees... or the ability to process new hires.

MR HYDRICK THOMAS, TSA council president for the American Federation of Government Employees.



Union officials in the US say some Transportation Security Administration officers, who carry out airport security screening, have already quit because of the shutdown and others are considering quitting. Air traffic controllers have also raised concerns over safety. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



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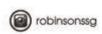
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South Korean President Moon Jae-in during his New Year press conference yesterday. He admitted that the first US-North Korea summit on denuclearisation did not produce specific results, and that the second one must delve into details of follow-up measures. He also said the two sides must narrow the differences between them before their second meeting. PHOTO: EPA-EFE

Both sides know what must be done for international sanctions to be lifted... but they are asking each other to make the first move, which is why the second US-North Korea summit is delayed until now. They need to narrow the differences between them before their second meeting.

SOUTH KOREA PRESIDENT MOON JAE-IN, on what North Korea and the United States should do to speed up the denuclearisation

STILL TAKING DIPLOMATIC ROUTE

(Pyongyang's) basic position of pursuing a peaceful resolution through dialogue remains unchanged.

NORTH KOREA LEADER KIM JONG UN, in his talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing this week, as reported by the North's official news agency KCNA.

COMPROMISE

China hopes that North Korea and the United States will meet each other halfway.

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING, in remarks made during his meeting with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un in Beijing

N. Korea urged to take bold steps to denuclearise

But US must take reciprocal measures to encourage Pyongyang, says S. Korea's Moon

Chang May Choon

South Korea Correspondent In Seoul

South Korean President Moon Jaein has urged North Korea to take bold and concrete measures to speed up denuclearisation, adding that China can continue to play a positive role in nudging Pyongyang towards that goal.

But he has also stressed the need for the United States to implement reciprocal measures to motivate the North.

The reality, however, is that neither side is willing to make the first move, resulting in a stalemate in nuclear talks. Mr Moon attributed this to years of hostility and distrust between the two countries since the 1950-53 Korean War, when the US sided with South Korea.

"Both sides know what must be done for international sanctions to be lifted... but they are asking each other to make the first move, which is why the second US-North Korea summit is delayed until now," Mr Moon said during his New Year press conference vesterday.

"They need to narrow the differences between them before their second meeting.

US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to work towards denuclearisation when they first met in Singapore in June last year...

A second summit is due early this year, and the US has reportedly

scouted locations in Hanoi, Bangkok and Hawaii.

Mr Moon admitted that the first summit did not produce specific results, and the second one must delve into details of follow-up measures.

The South Korean leader, who met Mr Kim three times last year, suggested that North Korea could demolish its production line for inter-continental ballistic missiles or destroy other missile test sites.

"Then when the US implements corresponding measures, trust will be built and the denuclearisation process can move on smoothly," he

Mr Moon's remarks came as his North Korean counterpart returned from a trip to China.

In meetings with President Xi Jinping, Mr Kim reaffirmed his commitment to denuclearisation and producing good results from his anticipated second summit with the US, reported Xinhua news agency.



Beijing on Wednesday, in a photo released by Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mr Xi said joint efforts by China, the North and other relevant parties have yielded significant progress and the "political settlement of the peninsula issue faces a rare historic opportunity".

"China hopes that North Korea and the United States will meet each other halfway," he added.

Mr Scott Snyder, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, noted that conveying "an image of solidarity with China" is the most effective

way for Mr Kim to "enhance his own strategic depth and standing", while negotiating with other world leaders.

"Kim's meetings with Xi are an effort to drive up the price in negotiations with the United States beyond what North Korea would be able to demand on its own," he wrote in a blog post.

Mr Moon said he expects highlevel talks to be held soon, noting that Mr Kim's visit to China is a prelude to the summit.

Last year, Mr Kim had visited China - North Korea's only ally and economic lifeline - before meeting Mr Moon and then Mr Trump.

China has played an "important and very positive role" in the denuclearisation process, and can continue to do so, said Mr Moon.

"Chairman Kim's visit to China also plays a positive role in facilitating the second US-North Korea summit."

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Moon defends income-led growth, promises tangible results

SEOUL • In a move to defend his controversial income-led growth policy, South Korean President Moon Jaein has pledged steps to produce tangible results that will improve people's lives while narrowing the income gap.

In a New Year's address yesterday leaning heavily on economic issues, Mr Moon promised more investment in strategic, innovative industries, more help for businesses affected by rising wages, and greater efforts in job creation.

The objective is to enable people to see clear signs in their lives that

"the government's economic policy is heading in the right direction", he said in a televised speech. "Tangible outcomes must be produced.

Hurt by the global economic downturn, trade war and weak investment, South Korea's export-reliant economy, is expected to grow between 2.6 per cent and 2.7 per cent last year and this year. This is lower than earlier projected figures of 2.9 per cent for last year and 2.8 per cent this year.

The labour-friendly Moon administration has been pushing to invigorate the economy by raising wages to boost household spending, a policy that has drawn harsh criticism from the opposition.

The minimum wage has already spiked nearly 30 per cent from 6,470 won (S\$8) per hour in 2017 to 8,350 won this year. But this has forced many small businesses to fire part-time workers to reduce labour costs.

Mr Moon said despite the challenges to the economy, it is important to continue the strategy.

"An economic policy shift can be truly frightening. It will take time and may generate controversy," he said. "However, it is the path that we must take. We will achieve the goal of an innovative, inclusive nation by all means while sufficiently making up for any shortcomings.'

South Korea is not alone in trying to address concerns over growing income inequalities, he said. "Our goal is to create an economy in which all prosper together on the basis of a fair economy with a level playing field, where innovative and income-driven growth enable sustainable development."

Noting that job creation has been limited due to sluggish growth, Mr Moon vowed stronger emphasis on increasing job opportunities and helping those unemployed.

The country's jobless rate of 3.8 per cent is the highest since 2001. The number of people employed grew by only 0.4 per cent from a year earlier, the lowest year-onyear gain since 2009.

He said: "My administration is taking this situation seriously. However, I want to emphasise that the hardships we are suffering now are even stronger proof of the need for the people-centred econ-

Efforts to build peace on the Korean Peninsula, which sees Mr Moon playing a mediating role between the United States and North Korea in denuclearisation talks, can also help spur growth, he said.

Inter-Korea economic cooperation, as well as the building of roads and railway linking the two Koreas, will "help find new breakthroughs for our economy", he

Chang May Choon

Don't politicise wartime forced labour issues, Moon urges Japan

SEOUL • South Korean President Moon Jae-in yesterday said Japan's political leaders should not undermine bilateral ties by "politicising" the issue of South Koreans forced to work by Japanese companies dur-

ing World War II. Relations between the two East Asian neighbours have been frosty since South Korea's top court ruled last October that Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp should compensate four former labourers.

Japan subsequently claimed that a South Korean warship had locked its radar on a Japanese patrol plane.

On Wednesday, Tokyo demanded diplomatic consultations with Seoul after a South Korean court approved the seizure of part of the domestic assets of the Japanese steelmaker, calling the move "extremely regrettable".

The South Korean leader called

for the Japanese government to foster a "more humble attitude" towards wartime issues and to respect judicial decisions, over which he said his administration could not exert any influence.

"We've been saying we should continue diplomatic discussions on the issue and should not hurt our forward-looking relationship with Japan," Mr Moon told a news confer-

"I don't think it is wise for Japanese politicians and leader to continue to politicise it, making sources of controversy and spreading them," he added.

South Korea and Japan share a long bitter history that includes Japan's 1910-45 colonisation of the Korean Peninsula, the forced mobilisation of Korean labour for Japanese companies as well as the use of comfort women, Japan's euphemism for girls and women, many of them Korean, forced to work in its wartime

Those issues were not resolved by a 1965 treaty that normalised relations, Mr Moon said, and the two countries should try to find ways to heal the wounds of victims. REUTERS

Mr Moon Jae-in called for the Japanese government to foster a "more humble attitude" towards wartime issues and to respect judicial decisions, over which he said his administration could not exert any influence.

Singapore, Indonesia eye further tie-up in vocational education

Jakarta keen on learning how to increase capability and competency of its labour force

Nur Asyiqin Mohamad Salleh Indonesia Correspondent

In Semarang, Central Java

Singapore and Indonesia are keen to explore further collaboration in vocational education, their ministers said yesterday.

Singapore's Education Minister Ong Ye Kung noted that Indonesia's economy has been on an encouraging trajectory and that the current administration is determined to push for industrialisation and job creation.

"To do so, they must have the right policies, attract investments from all over the world and, at the same time, recognise that to attract investments and make sure these translate into jobs, they must have training," Mr Ong told Singapore media as he wrapped up his three-day visit to Indonesia.

"So the setting up of polytechnics across the whole archipelago has always been one of the top priorities of this administration and of MOI (Indonesia's Ministry of Industry.)"

Earlier in the day, he attended the opening ceremony for one of Indonesia's newest polytechnics, the Kendal Furniture and Wood Processing Industry Polytechnic, where In-

donesia's Industry Minister Airlangga Hartarto said in a speech that the government is committed to building more polytechnics.

"Jokowi tells us 10 polytechnics are not enough... Can we make it 100?" Mr Airlangga said, referring to Indonesian President Joko Widodo by his popular moniker.

"Minister Ong has a lot of experience in developing people and we would like to learn from Singapore how to increase the capability and the competency of our labour force as well as human resources."

Mr Ong told reporters later that when he hosted Mr Airlangga at Nanyang Polytechnic last year, the Indonesian minister had been eager to get a better understanding of Singapore's polytechnics and Skills-Future initiative.

"Since then, we've been discussing how to deepen this collaboration," added Mr Ong.

Singapore has worked with Indonesian polytechnics namely on "train the trainer" programmes. ITE Education Services, for instance, has worked with MOI to train about 100 trainers and leaders in Indonesia's polytechnics so far. But the country is open to exploring other ways of working together, said Mr Ong.



Education Minister Ong Ye Kung touring the workshop at Kendal Furniture and Wood Processing Industry Polytechnic, one of Indonesia's newest polytechnics. Indonesia's Industry Minister Airlangga Hartarto said the government is committed to building more polytechnics. ST PHOTOS: NUR ASYIQIN MOHAMAD SALLEH

"Most importantly, so long as the government here is committed, has a national plan, is prepared to support the programme, as Singapore has done through SkillsFuture, then you know there's a long-term plan and I think we can then work together beyond 'train the trainers'," he said.

"We can look at whether we can do curriculum development together, even deliver some modules here."

This has been done in countries such as Myanmar and India, and can be considered in the case of Indonesia, he added.

At the polytechnic, Mr Ong had the chance to speak to students and observe them at work. He also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Singapore Polytechnic and the MOI to deepen cooperation in human resource education and training related to Industry 4.0.

Polytechnics are an important way to build up more training opportunities, supporting Indonesia in its push to embrace Industry 4.0 and



The Kendal Furniture and Wood Processing Industry Polytechnic welcomed its first batch of students last October; only 99 were picked from 694 applicants.

create jobs, he told reporters there.

The polytechnic, located in Kendal Industrial Park, a joint venture between Singapore's Semb-

corp Development and Indonesia's

industrial estate developer PT

Jababeka, was first announced at the Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat in 2017. It welcomed its first batch of students last October; just 99 were picked from 694 applicants, and they already have jobs in 16 furniture companies waiting for them.
Mr Airlangga held up Kendal Industrial Park, a 2,700ha park in the bustling port city of Semarang, as a "success story", adding that he hoped it could be replicated in other areas around Indonesia.

other areas around Indonesia.

The park was officially opened by President Joko and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at a Leaders' Retreat in 2016. Since then, it has continued to make progress, with 48 companies committed and with US\$500 million (S\$676 million) in investments.

Sembcorp in 2016 said that about 100,000 jobs are expected to be created by 2021, when the first phase of the project is complete.

Noting how the park was just "an empty piece of land" some years ago, Mr Airlangga said: "If Indonesia and Singapore can work closer, then what we would like to achieve together can happen at the speed of light."

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India's Parliament gives green light to job reservation Bill

Move comes as unemployment emerges as key challenge for ruling BJP ahead of polls

Debarshi Dasgupta

India Correspondent In New Delhi

The Indian government has managed to secure Parliament approval for a Bill to reserve 10 per cent of government jobs and admission to higher educational institutions for economically weak sections of upper caste groups.

These groups are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation. The Bill was passed late on Wednesday despite the opposition accusing the government of bring-

ing in the legislation "in haste".

The politically significant move has been described as an attempt by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to spin a positive narrative about its government as it prepares to launch its re-election campaign for the parliamentary polls, due in around three months.

It comes at a time when surging joblessness has emerged as a major political challenge for the BJP.

A report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), released last week, indicated that the number of unemployed in India rose steadily over the last 12 months.

As many as 11 million people lost their jobs last year, while the number of employed individuals fell to 397 million as of last month. The CMIE report was quickly appropriated by the opposition in order to attack the government.

National spokesman for the opposition Congress party Manish Tewari tweeted: "Two crore jobs were promised every year by the NDA/BJP between 2014-19. It translates into 10 crore jobs over five years. Instead you have this – 11 million job lost in 2018 alone! Need more be said?" One crore is equivalent to 10 million. The NDA refers to the National Democratic Alliance that is led by the BJP.

In his report, CMIE managing director and chief executive Mahesh Vyas said while employment estimates have been volatile, "the trend nevertheless is of a steep decline".

And it has afflicted rural areas more, with women bearing the brunt of unemployment. Around 9.1 million jobs were lost in rural India and a further 1.8 million lost in urban India.

Of the 11 million jobs lost, 8.8 million were lost by women and 2.2 million by men.

Drawing a portrait of the most vulnerable, Mr Vyas wrote that this "is a woman, particularly a woman in rural India, (who) is uneducated and is engaged as a wage labourer or a farm labourer or is a small-scale trader and is aged either less than 40 years or more than 60 years".

The report reflects the poor performance of India's agricultural sector, which accounts for around 43 per cent of total employment and drives India's rural economy.

While the gross domestic product growth rate for the second quarter of the 2018-19 financial year was 7.1 per cent, the agricultural sector clocked just 3.8 per cent growth.

This has pushed many to seek jobs elsewhere. While men migrate to cities, women are often left behind, adding to the number of unemployed in rural areas.

The resulting distress played a key role in the recent state elections when incumbent BJP governments were booted out of power in three key states – Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

An analysis of the results by the

Lokniti Programme for Comparative Democracy at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) found that people in these states listed limited opportunities for employment, along with a lack of development and the price rise, as their most important concerns.

This is something that has also been consistently flagged in the Lokniti-ABP News Mood of the Nation (MOTN) surveys, the last of which was released last May.

"Lots of people have been consistently saying in our surveys that it is difficult to find jobs compared with the past," said Professor Sanjay Kumar, director of CSDS.

This number went up from 49 per cent in the January 2018 survey to 57 per cent in May.

"And when we ask an openended question without giving any options, asking people to identify what their main problem is, unemployment comes out to be the major issue in a large number of

11m

Number of people in India who lost their jobs last year, while the number of employed individuals fell to 397 million as of last month. states," he told The Straits Times.

In the last three surveys, 25 per cent or more of the respondents cited unemployment as their key problem. This is a large number, argued Dr Kumar.

"There are many – around a fourth – who fail to identify their key problem in an open-ended question. So this immediate recollection of unemployment by around 25 per cent of people across 18 states is an alarming situation," he said.

"It is one of the major factors that weighs against this government and they can't be happy about it."

As many as 130 million first-time voters – twice the population of France – will be casting their ballots in the forthcoming parliamentary election. A secure job is something they will have on their minds when they pick a candidate.

It was the pledge of a more prosperous future that won Mr Narendra Modi and his party their strong mandate in 2014.

While he continues to remain the most popular leader, Mr Modi's ratings have seen a decline.

The gap between Mr Modi and Congress party president Rahul Gandhi was 17 percentage points in the MOTN survey in January last year. By May, it was down to 10 points, with Mr Modi being the preferred prime minister of 34 per cent of voters, and Mr Gandhi being the preferred choice of 24 per cent.

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Korean cabby dies in protest against ride-sharing

SEOUL • A South Korean taxi driver set himself on fire to protest against a ride-sharing service being introduced by the country's largest mobile chat app, the second to do so in a month.

The 64-year-old, surnamed Im, parked near the US Embassy in central Seoul moments before his vehicle was engulfed in flames.

The driver remained conscious after he got out of the burning vehicle on Wednesday evening, witnesses said, and was taken to a nearby hospital but died hours later, according to police, who found melted fuel bottles in the car.

Mr Im left a suicide note, Yonhap news agency reported, calling for a ban on what he called "illegal carpooling"

He is the second cab driver in a month to have died this way to protest against a ride-sharing ser-

vice created by chat app Kakao. Ride-sharing companies have cut transport costs and increased services for passengers around the



A taxi driver in South Korea died after setting himself on fire in his cab on Wednesday, the second such suicide in a month over the introduction of a ride-sharing service. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

world, but are conspicuous by their absence in South Korea, where the US giant Uber has only a minimal

Uber closed its main ride-sharing service in South Korea in 2015 amid an extensive backlash from cab drivers and now offers only taxi- and licensed-hire vehicle hailing.

An opinion poll last November found that 58.2 per cent of South Koreans wanted to see ride-sharing introduced, with only 12.5 per cent against.

The Kakao Mobility scheme, which is operating on a trial basis, would allow drivers to provide only two rides a day.

But taxi drivers have protested angrily, saying it would threaten their jobs and livelihoods.

After the first driver suicide last month, Kakao delayed the formal launch of the service, initially scheduled for Dec 17, citing a need for social consensus on the issue.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Woman assaulted after mistaking attacker's car for her Grab ride

JOHOR BARU • Malaysian police have nabbed a Pakistani man for sexually attacking a woman in Johor who got into his car after mistaking it for the Grabride she had booked.

The incident took place late on Monday night when the 23-year-old woman booked a trip using the ride-hailing app, the New Straits Times (NST) reported yesterday.

"The victim booked a ride from Jalan Yahya Awal to go to Larkin. After receiving a notification from the Grab driver, she straight away got into the car at the pick-up location without checking its registration number," said Johor Baru south police chief Shahurinain Jais.

"The suspect was circling in the same area so the victim told him off before the suspect stopped his car at the crime scene," Assistant Commissioner Shahurinain was quoted as saying, adding that the driver then moved to the back seat and slapped the victim. After putting up a strong struggle and kicking her assailant, the woman got out of the car but fell into a bush, where she was pinned down by the man, China Press reported.

After the man left, the woman hailed another Grab car, which took her to the Larkin Police Station, where she lodged a report. The woman could not provide the attacker's car licence plate number but the police were able to identify it through closed-circuit television.

The 31-year-old suspect, who tested negative for drugs, was arrested the next day and admitted his involvement. He has been remanded until Monday.

China to sinicise Islam in 5-year plan

Move comes amid criticism of Beijing for clampdown on **Muslims in Xinjiang**

Lim Yan Liang

China Correspondent In Beijing

China has passed a five-year plan to make Islam more Chinese, even as it faces withering criticism over its large-scale detention of Muslims in

The plan aims "to guide Islam to be compatible with socialism and implement measures to sinicise the religion" so as to foster patriotism.

It was adopted last week by the United Front Work Department, the Chinese Communist Party agency overseeing religion, following a meeting with representatives of local Islamic associations from eight provinces and regions, The Global Times reported.

Little else is known about the plan, but an outline of a five-year plan for Protestant Christianity released last year hints at measures in



ments and Christianity's "tether" to the West should be eliminated.

ism, as well as socialist theories like President Xi Jinping's "Four Confi-

cal system, guiding theories and culture. Churches should also inte-

The plan for Islam is the latest in a series of steps taken by the central government in recent years to tighten its grip on major faiths in WARINESS OF POWER OF ISLAM

The Chinese Communist Party fears that Islam can have a strong sway on its believers and that a certain segment of its believers are willing to act in militant ways, even though that's a very small segment of all Muslims. But the perception looms large in

Beijing's mind, so terrorism becomes a convenient reason to clamp down hard.

CHONG JA IAN, National University of Singapore political scientist

Worshippers in the mosque at the Xinjiang Islamic Institute during a Chinese government-organised trip last week in Urumgi, Xinjiang.

PHOTO: REUTERS the country amid a religious revival,

with more young Chinese identifying themselves as religious. There are similar plans for all five state-recognised religions - Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism

and Protestant Christianity. For example, a five-year plan to guide the development of Buddhism will also be key work for the Chinese Buddhist Association this year, it was announced at a symposium held on Monday by China's

Parliament with national and grass-

roots religious leaders. Mr Xi's campaign to sinicise religions officially began with a 2016 speech at a national conference on religion. He said then that the party needs to "actively guide those (who are) religious to love their country, protect the unification of their motherland and serve the overall in-

terests of the Chinese nation". In particular, Beijing has long been concerned about the influence of extremist Islamic terrorist groups on the Uighurs in its autonomous region of Xinjiang.

In recent months, China's clampdown on the Muslim minority has drawn condemnation from Western countries such as France, Ger-

many and the United States. Last month, three mosques were closed in south-western Yunnan after the authorities said they provided illegal religious education, sparking a clash between worship-

pers and the People's Armed Police. A 34-year-old Arabic school in Gansu was also shuttered after officials said it did not have the correct

Last October, China amended its laws to legitimise its detention of Uighurs in Xinjiang, after earlier denying the existence of such detention camps.

The United Nations said in an August report that up to one million Uighurs are being detained in "reeducation camps". Its top human rights official said last month that her office was seeking direct access to the region to verify these reports.

Beijing has said its security measures are needed to combat the influence of extremist groups that incite violence there, and that the camps are vocational training schools.

On Monday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that UN officials are free to visit Xinjiang, provided they meet certain conditions.

"(They should) refrain from interfering in others' internal affairs or undermining others' sovereignty," said ministry spokesman Lu Kang.

Experts said Beijing's move represents a further curtailment of religious freedoms, and President Xi's drive to consolidate control across various spheres, including business and the military.

Mr Xi's campaign to sinicise religions also shows his administration's wariness of religion's power to mobilise the masses, said National University of Singapore political scientist Chong Ja Ian.

"The Chinese Communist Party fears that Islam can have a strong sway on its believers and that a certain segment of its believers are willing to act in militant ways, even though that's a very small segment of all Muslims," he said. "But the perception looms large in Beijing's mind, so terrorism becomes a convenient reason to clamp down hard."

Global Times editor-in-chief Hu Xijin disagreed that there is a clampdown on Islam and Muslims. "The reality is that religions that enter China cannot transform China, but must adapt to local conditions and undergo a Chinese baptism," he wrote in a Weibo post that drew over a thousand likes and shares.







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Ghosn case rattles foreign execs across Japan



Presse.

Carlos Ghosn's prolonged detention shines the spotlight on Japan's legal system, which gives enormous power to prosecutors. PHOTO: AGENCE

FRANCE-PRESSE

Expat business community fears falling foul of opaque and draconian legal system

TOKYO • Carlos Ghosn's prolonged detention under what critics see as Japan's opaque and draconian legal system has alarmed foreign executives and sparked questions over the country's ability to attract overseas talent.

Some in the expatriate business community believe the French-Brazilian-Lebanese tycoon, once

revered as chairman of Nissan, has been the victim of unfair harshness because he is a foreigner.

"The way Ghosn is treated seems completely out of proportion compared to the way Japanese executives are treated," said one Tokyobased French businessman, who

asked not to be named. This person pointed to a series of

massive accounting scandals at Toshiba during which Japanese executives avoided criminal charges.

In contrast, Ghosn has languished in a Tokyo detention centre for more than 50 days as he fights a string of allegations of financial misconduct. The court has banned his family from visiting, allowing only contact with his lawyers and diplomats.

"It gives the impression of double standards, as if (Ghosn) was being treated this way because he is a foreigner. I do not see how they are going to attract qualified foreigners," the person told Agence France-

Ghosn had initially been held in a tiny room with Japanese-style tatami for sleeping - sparking outrage from abroad. He has since been moved to a larger room and has a Western-style bed, according to his lawyer Motonari Otsuru.

Mr Otsuru has dampened expectations that his client could be released any time soon, suggesting it could be six months until a trial is held, and stressing that bail is un-

likely in such cases.

Many in Japan have voiced surprise that foreigners have criticised their legal system and prosecutors have reacted angrily, saying they are playing by the rules.

"This is a specific case," said Mr Seiji Nakata, head of Daiwa Securities. "I am in contact with foreign bosses and they have not voiced any pessimism on the subject."

But Ghosn dominates talk in expat business circles and while foreign investors are not yet rushing to leave Tokyo, the case has worried execu-

tives who fear they may unknowingly face legal troubles even if they think they are operating legally.

The case has "shone a strong spotlight on the opaqueness of Japan's prosecution system", said economist Martin Schulz at the Fujitsu Research Institute in Tokyo. "This certainly has a negative effect on the ability of companies to attract top talent to Japan," he added.

As the Ghosn case has laid bare, Japan's legal system gives enormous power to prosecutors, who nearly always secure guilty verdicts. Courts, meanwhile, routinely allow suspects to be held for questioning for lengthy periods.

Ghosn's case has also highlighted how the Japanese system differs from Western business norms, said corporate compliance lawyer Nobuo Gohara, also a former Tokyo prosecutor.

Mr Gohara noted that Nissan's sitting chief executive officer Hiroto Saikawa did not give Ghosn the opportunity to defend himself internally to the company's board.

Instead, the Nissan management conducted an internal probe, sided with prosecutors and swiftly sacked Ghosn after his arrest.

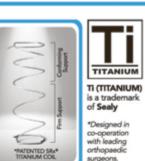
"If you were a manager with a very high salary in Japan - and because of your compensation, you might find yourself in a situation like that – I would imagine people with normal, common sense would not want to work in Japan," said Mr Gohara. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



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Maia Deguito was branch manager of Rizal Commercial **Banking Corp** when she committed the

Ex-bank worker gets \$147m fine over huge cyberheist

MANILA • A former bank employee in the Philippines was handed a hefty US\$109 million (S\$147 million) fine yesterday in the first conviction over one of the biggest ever cyberheists which saw US\$81 million stolen from Bangladesh's central bank. She could also face a lengthy prison sentence.

Shadowy hackers transferred the cash in 2016 from Bangladesh's US accounts to Philippine bank Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC), where it was swiftly withdrawn.

The theft exposed the Philippines as a haven for dirty money, where some of the world's strictest bank secrecy laws protect account holders from scrutiny.

A Manila court found Maia Deguito, who was a manager at the RCBC branch where the money landed, guilty on eight counts of money laundering which carry a minimum of four years each behind bars. She was also ordered to pay US\$109 million in fines.

Deguito plans to appeal.

The authorities say Deguito helped coordinate the transfer of the money, which was taken from Bangladesh's reserves account at the Federal Reserve Bank in the US. Deguito is the only person who

has been convicted in the case which has drawn international concern - her lawyer Demetrio Custodio told AFP, adding that his client had been turned into a scapegoat. "She could not have done this on

her own. A bank the size of RCBC could not have allowed a lowly bank officer to have planned this, so there are others involved in this," Mr Custodio said.

RCBC said in a statement that it was a "victim" and that Deguito was a "rogue" employee.

The Philippine Justice Department said the case has not been closed, but could not immediately provide details on other cases.

A North Korean hacker is also wanted by the United States on charges that he and a state-sponsored hacking crew masterminded the Bangladesh heist.

Only US\$15 million of the money was recovered after it landed in the Philippines. Tens of millions of the loot disappeared into Manila's casinos, which were at the time exempt from rules aimed at preventing money laundering.

The Philippine central bank imposed a record US\$21 million fine on RCBC after the discovery of the heist as it investigated the lender's alleged role in the theft.

The US Reserve Bank, which manages the Bangladesh Bank account, has denied its own systems were breached. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019 | THE STRAITS TIMES |

4 civil defence volunteers gunned down in S. Thailand

Paramedics taking away the body of one of the four Thai civil defence volunteers who were shot and killed outside a school in the southern province of Pattani yesterday. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Move comes after pro-independence DPP's major defeat in local elections two months ago

Taiwan Premier,

TAIPEI • Taiwan Premier William Lai yesterday said he was resigning, along with the self-ruled island's entire Cabinet, nearly two months after the defeat of his ruling pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in local elections.

The election losses present a major challenge to President Tsai Ingwen who has come under mounting domestic criticism over her reform agenda while facing renewed threats from China, which considers the island its own.

Mr Lai's departure was widely expected. It is standard practice in Taiwan for leaders to go when their party loses a major election. The DPP suffered a significant defeat last November to the Chinafriendly opposition Kuomintang.

It is also customary for the Cabinet to step down when the premier resigns.

"The time is up. I will call a special Cabinet meeting tomorrow and resign along with the entire Cabinet," Mr Lai told reporters in Parliament yesterday, adding that Ms Tsai had approved his resignation.

Cabinet to quit today

Ms Tsai, who is also from the DPP, was expected to announce a new premier, Mr Lai said, and ministerial appointments would follow.

Taiwan's elected president appoints the premier, who forms the Cabinet and runs the government on a day-to-day basis.

Analysts said Ms Tsai, who faces a presidential election in about a year, must shore up public support for her policy on relations with Beijing and boost the island's export-reliant economy in a challenging year amid the China-US trade dispute.

Chinese President Xi Jinping this month threatened to use force to bring democratic Taiwan under Bei-

jing's rule, and urged "reunification" with the island.

Mr Xi has stepped up pressure on Taiwan since Ms Tsai became President in 2016.

Ms Tsai has said her administration would reflect upon on the election defeat but would stand firm to defend Taiwan's democracy in the face of renewed Chinese threats.

Some from within the embattled leader's party have urged Ms Tsai not to seek re-election. She has not explicitly said whether she would run for president in 2020.

Ms Tsai resigned as her party's chairman in November but has stayed on as the island's President.

The DPP last Sunday announced that it had chosen Mr Cho Jung-tai, a moderate who comfortably defeated a bid from an openly pro-independence rival, to replace Ms Tsai as chairman.

The latest tension with China is credit negative for Taiwan and would hurt the island's economy, Moody's said in a report this week. REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PATTANI (Thailand) • Four civil defence volunteers in Thailand were gunned down yesterday at a school in the south, with students just metres away, as bloodshed greets the 15th year of an insurgency in the Malay-Muslim border zone.

The culturally distinct region that borders Malaysia has seen rebels fight against the rule of Buddhistmajority Thailand, which annexed the area over a hundred years ago.

Since 2004, armed insurgents have clashed with Thailand's powerful military, with the violence claiming the lives of nearly 7,000 people – mostly civilians – both Muslims and Buddhists.

The death toll fell to a record low last year as Thailand's junta tightened its security web in the south. But recent weeks have seen an uptick in violence, as rebels show they remain able to carry out operations after 15 years of conflict.

The men killed yesterday were all Muslim; they were guarding a school in the Yarang district of Pattani when the gunmen struck.

"They were shot dead at the scene," Lieutenant Wicha Nupannoi, of Yarang police station told Agence France-Presse, adding the killers were suspected insurgents.

"The assailants seized their four rifles," he said, adding there were no eyewitnesses to the attack.

Civil defence "volunteers" are poorly paid local civilians who are lightly-trained, armed and paid by the Thai state to supplement security forces there.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE









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Conservatives, older people 'more likely' to share fake news

WASHINGTON • Facebook users aged 65 plus and conservatives are more likely to share fake news on the platform than younger or more liberal counterparts, according to a new study.

Researchers from Princeton and New York universities analysed the Facebook posts of nearly 1,200 people who agreed to share their data in the aftermath of the 2016 US presidential election.

They then compared links the respondents had shared on Facebook with several lists – including one compiled by BuzzFeed - of websites known to share false information.

The study, published in Science Advances on Wednesday, found less than only 8.5 per cent of respondents shared a link from one of these websites. However, those that did tended

to be older, and self-identified as being on the conservative end of the political spectrum. In fact, users over 65 - regard-

less of political affiliations shared "nearly seven times as many articles from fake news domains" as those aged 18 to 29 did, the youngest age group studied.

"No other demographic characteristic seems to have a consistent effect on sharing fake news," the authors reported.

"It is possible that an entire cohort of Americans, now in their 60s and beyond, lacks the level of

digital media literacy necessary to reliably determine the trustworthiness of news encountered online," they suggested.

The authors also suggested the impact of ageing on memory could have an effect.

"Under this account, memory deteriorates with age in a way that particularly undermines resistance to 'illusions of truth'," they

Although the study found that Republicans shared more fake news than Democrats, and ideologically, conservatives shared the most fake news stories - this could be due to the fact that most fake news articles produced during the 2016 presidential campaign favoured Mr Donald Trump.

"Had the slant of fake news been pro-(Hillary)Clinton instead of pro-Trump, it is possible that more liberals than conservatives would have shared this content," the authors wrote in a Washington Post op-ed.

Facebook has been hammered for failing to stop information manipulation and misinformation, including from Russian organisations during the 2016 US election.

Its leaders have promised more transparency in hearings in the US Congress and elsewhere, and the network has stepped up efforts to find and root out fake accounts and foreign influence campaigns. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Bezos' soon-to-be ex could be world's richest woman



Mr Jeff Bezos and his wife MacKenzie. They met when he interviewed her for a job at New York hedge fund D. E. Shaw & Co in 1993. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

MacKenzie Bezos could leave with \$89b if assets are split 50:50, but this may be unlikely

While Wall Street has taken the news of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos divorcing his wife of 25 years in its stride, investors will be watching to see if the divorce settlement affects his control of the giant company.

Mr Bezos, the world's richest man, announced his split from his wife MacKenzie on Wednesday, saying in a statement that "though the labels might be different, we remain a family, and we remain cherished friends".

While Mrs Bezos does not hold any Amazon shares directly, Mr Bezos has a 16.1 per cent stake worth about US\$130 billion (S\$175 billion). Forbes magazine now estimates his overall net worth at US\$137.1 billion.

Bloomberg reported that so long as the company is growing and returning profits, he will probably maintain investors' confidence.

The couple, who live in Washington state, last year pledged US\$1 billion to fight homelessness in the US.

Meanwhile, the divorce could make Mrs Bezos the world's richest woman.

Here are five things you should know about her.

A PRINCETON GRADUATE AND AN AUTHOR OF TWO

Mr Bezos, 54, has often acknowledged Mrs Bezos, 48, for her support when he founded Amazon, which grew from an online bookseller to become of the world's largest retailers.

Mrs Bezos grew up in San Francisco; her father was a financial planner and her mother a housewife. She studied English at Princeton University, where she was an assistant to novelist and Pulitzer Prize winner Toni Morrison.

It took her a decade before she published her debut novel, a psychological thriller entitled The Testing Of Luther Albright, that won the 2005 American Book Award.

A WHIRLWIND ROMANCE When Mrs Bezos was trying for a job at New York hedge fund D. E. Shaw & Co in 1993, the first person to interview her at the firm turned out to be Mr Bezos, who was then a senior vice-president. She got the job as a research associate.

In a 2013 interview with Vogue magazine, she was quoted as saying: "My office was next door to his, and all day long, I listened to that fabulous laugh.

"How could you not fall in love with that laugh?"

Mrs Bezos, then 23 years old, told the magazine that she made the first move to woo her future husband by suggesting lunch.

Within three months of their lunch date, the couple were engaged. And another three months later, they tied the knot. The couple have four children: three sons and a daughter, adopted from China.

ONE OF AMAZON'S EARLIEST EMPLOYEES

Mrs Bezos was considered one of Amazon's earliest employees when the firm was founded in 1994. She helped with the accounting in its first year.

Mr Bezos has always been outspoken about his wife's unwavering support during that period.

"When you have loving and supportive people in your life, like MacKenzie, my parents, my grandfather, my grandmother, you end up being able to take risks," he had said.

SHE COULD BECOME THE **WORLD'S RICHEST WOMAN**

Mrs Bezos could become the world's richest woman with the divorce, reported local and international news outlets.

Divorce lawyer Sandy Ain told The Washington Post that the Bezos family reside in a "common property" state, which means that all the assets and debts accumulated during their marriage would be divided equally.

With Mr Bezos being the richest person in the world, a 50:50 agreement would result in the biggest recorded divorce settlement, reported The Washington Post.

This means that Mrs Bezos could walk away from the divorce with about US\$66 billion (S\$89 billion), making her the richest woman in the world, according to CNBC.

However, a divorce lawyer told CNBC that a 50:50 split is unlikely, as Mr Bezos' wealth is tied to his controlling stake in Amazon.

This also may not be the case if the couple have a pre- or post-nuptial agreement. The couple or Amazon have yet to comment on the likely division of their assets.

WAS SHE DUMPED FOR A **FORMER TV ANCHOR?**

Soon after Mr Bezos and Mrs Bezos revealed their plan to divorce, reports suggested that Mr Bezos has been in a secret relationship with Ms Lauren Sanchez, a former TV anchor and the estranged wife of Hollywood talent mogul Patrick Whitesell.

Celebrity-news site Page Six reported that Mr Bezos got to know Ms Sanchez, a former anchor of television channel Fox's Good Day LA, through Mr Whitesell. Mr Bezos and Ms Sanchez reportedly became closer after her separation from Mr Whitesell.

SOURCES: REUTERS, PEOPLE.COM, VOGUE, WALL STREET JOURNAL, CNBC, BLOOMBERG. WASHINGTON POST, WIRED. THE NEW YORK POST

Ng Huiwen



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PM May mulling over Brexit 'Plan B' as House takes control

Move comes as she loses ground in battle over who controls direction of exit from EU



Anti-Brexit protesters waving the EU flag outside the Houses of Parliament in London yesterday. If the UK tumbles out of the bloc on March 29 without any new trading partnership in place, official analysis suggests the impact could trigger a recession. PHOTO: REUTERS



LONDON • British Prime Minister Theresa May is openly contemplating a Brexit "Plan B" amid growing signs that Parliament will reject the deal she has reached with the European Union and try to take charge of what happens next.

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister suffered her second defeat in two days in the House of Commons, losing control of the timetable for setting out the next steps if – as expected – Parliament votes down her Brexit deal next Tuesday.

In the aftermath of Wednesday's defeat, Mrs May's office publicly discussed for the first time what she would do if she loses that critically important vote next Tuesday.

"Our intention has always been to respond quickly and provide certainty on the way forward in the event we lose," her spokesman, Mr James Slack, told reporters in London. "That is what we will do."

Mr Slack's remark is a significant development and a clear sign that Mrs May's team knows she is losing ground in her battle with Parliament over who controls the direction of Brexit. It followed a defeat on Tuesday when the Commons voted to undermine her preparations for a no-deal exit from the bloc.

It all points to a scenario in which the Prime Minister, who leads a weak minority government, cannot dictate what happens next, while an emboldened Parliament increasingly asserts its will.

Some in Mrs May's Cabinet welcome that. Business Secretary Greg Clark yesterday became the latest senior government figure to signal

that a no-deal Brexit was unacceptable. He told the BBC that the world's investors were watching the United Kingdom with "mounting alarm", and urged Parliament to be an "active participant" in finding a Brexit compromise.

In recent days, Mrs May has been trying to garner support for her deal. This week, she met a group of opposition Labour Party lawmakers in an attempt to win their support on Brexit, according to an official familiar with the matter. That is in addition to a larger group of crossparty lawmakers she met to discuss their concerns about a no-deal Brexit, as well as smaller groups of Conservatives, the official said.

However, the number of Labour members willing to risk their party's fury in order to support Mrs May's deal as it stands is not close to the number of Conservatives pub-

PROVIDE CERTAINTY

Our intention has always been to respond quickly and provide certainty on the way forward in the event we lose. That is what we will do.

"

MR JAMES SLACK, British PM Theresa May's spokesman. Her office has publicly discussed for the first time what she would do if she loses the critically important vote next Tuesday. licly committed to voting against it. Only a significant shift by the Prime Minister, for instance accepting a customs union with the EU, would have any chance of doing that.

That would outrage Brexit-supporting Conservatives, but there are signs that the rest of the party is losing patience with them.

Speaking in Parliament on Wednesday evening, Tory Paul Masterton said that, having accepted that his side lost in the Brexit referendum, he had been willing to compromise.

"The deal before us is as far as I am prepared to go," he said. "If some of my colleagues want to blow this up in pursuit of an ideologically purist fantasy, fine. Go ahead. But I am done. Would it not be something if, when the history books are written, it emerged that it was owing to the arrogance and belligerence of the hardline Brexiters in refusing to compromise that, rather than ending up with this imperfect Brexit, they ended up with no Brexit at all?"

With fewer than 80 days until Britain is due to leave the EU, time is running out to secure an agreement and avoid what businesses and pro-European politicians fear will be a costly no-deal exit.

If the UK tumbles out of the bloc on March 29 without any new trading partnership in place, official analysis suggests the impact could trigger a recession, with the pound falling by as much as 25 per cent and house prices by as much 30 per cent. BLOOMBERG

SEE OPINION A25

Opposition Labour leader urges election to end Brexit impasse

WAKEFIELD (England) • Britain's main opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn yesterday called for a general election to resolve the deadlock in Parliament over Brexit, arguing that he would renegotiate the agreement with Brussels if he came to power.

"If the government cannot pass its most important legislation, then there must be a general election at the earliest opportunity," he said, speaking at an electronic components factory in Wakefield in northern England.

"To break the deadlock, an election is not only the most practical option, it is also the most democratic option.

"It would give the winning party a renewed mandate to negotiate a better deal for Britain and secure support for it in Parliament and across the country," he said.

The European Union has ruled out any renegotiation of the deal.

The Labour leader has said he will seek a vote of no confidence in the government if Parliament, as expected, next week votes against the Brexit deal that Prime Minister Theresa May has negotiated with EUleaders.

If the government lose a no confidence motion, there will be a period of 14 days in which parties can seek to find an alternative working majority in Parliament and a gen-

eral election would be called if they

fail to do so.

The Labour Party has said it will only push for a second referendum on Brexit if it fails to trigger an elec-

"We'll keep all options on the table, including the option of campaigning for a public vote," Mr Corbyn said.

Wakefield voted by 66 per cent in favour of leaving the EU in the 2016 referendum but its two local Labour MPs, Ms Mary Creagh and Ms Yvette Cooper, support a second referendum that could allow

Britain to stay in.

In his speech, Mr Corbyn said that Labour would seek to heal Brexit divisions if it came to power, arguing that the core problem was a "failed system rigged against the many to protect the interests of the few".

Responding to questions after his speech, he said an extension of the Article 50 process which would delay Brexit is possible, to allow a new Labour government "time to peggiate"

negotiate".

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS



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Pompeo adamant US troops will leave Syria

Top US diplomat, on Middle East tour, tries to reassure allies ahead of withdrawal

CAIRO • US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted yesterday that American troops will leave Syria, ahead of a keynote speech aimed at laying out a coherent policy in the Middle East.

"(President Donald Trump's) decision to withdraw our troops has been made. We will do that. We will withdraw our forces, our uniformed forces, from Syria and continue America's crushing campaign," Mr Pompeo told reporters.

Washington's top diplomat was speaking at a joint press conference with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry on the third leg of a key Middle East tour.

He had earlier met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, after arriving in Cairo late Wednesday on a trip which has already taken him to Jordan, Baghdad and Erbil.

Later yesterday, Mr Pompeo gave an address entitled "A Force For Good: America Reinvigorated In The Middle East" at the American University in Cairo.

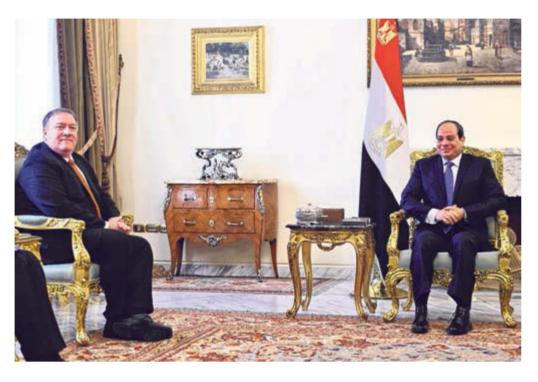
His tour is aimed at urging regional allies to continue to confront the "significant threats" posed by Iran and Islamic militants despite Mr Trump's shock decision last month to pull all 2,000 American troops from Syria.

But the muddled pronouncements from the Trump administration, which swiftly walked back the planned withdrawal from Syria, has sparked regional concern.

A senior State Department official insisted ahead of the trip the US will "not leave the Middle East".

US will "not leave the Middle East".

The whistle-stop tour will also take Mr Pompeo to Gulf countries in-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (far left) meeting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo yesterday. Mr Pompeo's Middle East tour is aimed at urging regional allies to continue to confront the threats posed by Iran and Islamic militants. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

cluding the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

As he arrived in Egypt, the State Department described the country as a "steadfast partner in the antiterror fight, and a courageous voice in denouncing the radical Islamist ideology that fuels it".

But there are rising concerns that US policy is getting bogged down. And many of the Trump administration's decisions have stoked confusion and angered regional allies.

"By most accounts, Trump's Middle East policy has made a messy Middle East even messier," said Mr Aaron David Miller on Twitter. The former US diplomat, now an analyst at Woodrow Wilson Centre, said: "A risk-averse President who makes new policy by tweet or phone call surrounded by risk-ready advisers who run cleanup, don't respect deliberation and have objectives that aren't clear or attainable equals US policy (or lack of it) in Syria."

Meanwhile Turkey and the United States are at loggerheads over the future of Syrian Kurdish forces after the troop pullout.

US forces have been working with Kurdish militia to fight against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants. The Kurds control a swathe of north-eastern Syria, Washington's foothold in a conflict that has drawn in Russia, Iran, Turkey and other regional powers.

Washington has repeatedly said its Kurdish allies will remain safe despite the troop withdrawal. But Turkey, which considers the USbacked Syrian Kurdish YPG militia an enemy, has repeatedly vowed to crush the group and repudiated any suggestion of protecting it once US troops leave.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan denounced visiting US national security adviser John Bolton on Tuesday for suggesting that protecting the Kurds would be a precondition of the US withdrawal, a

suggestion Mr Erdogan called "a serious mistake".

Asked on Wednesday if Mr Erdogan's pushback puts the withdrawal at risk, Mr Pompeo told reporters in the Kurdish regional capital Erbil: "No. We're having conversations with them even as we speak about how we will effectuate this in a way that protects our forces."

He added: "It's important that we do everything we can to make sure that those folks that fought with us are protected and Erdogan has made commitments, he understands that."

The withdrawal of US forces from Syria is seen as strengthening the position of both Turkey and the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, which is backed by Russia and Iran.

Mr Pompeo has stressed throughout his trip to the region that Washington still aims to counter Iranian influence.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS



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The Straits Times says

Pick new World Bank chief on merit

ince it was founded in 1945, the World Bank has had 12 presidents, all of whom have been American. The resignation last week of the incumbent, Mr Jim Yong Kim, a US citizen of Korean descent, almost three years before the end of his term, opens the possibility of ending the United States' monopoly over the leadership of one of the world's premier development institutions. If this happens, it would be a welcome departure from tradition. Over the 73 years of its existence, the Bank has become more diverse, both in terms of its membership and its activities. At its inception, it had 29 members. Today it has 189, most of them

developing countries. Its mission has also evolved

over the decades. It started with funding post-

World War II reconstruction, mainly in Europe. But today, most of its work is in the developing world, where it provides policy advice as well as funding to tackle poverty, build institutions and infrastructure. It also deals with issues such as health, nutrition, sanitation, climate change, gender equality and governance. Given the diversity of its membership and the fact that its agenda is focused on economic development, there is no reason – other than convention – why its leadership should continue to be exclusively in the hands of the US, which although being the Bank's single largest shareholder, holds only 16 per cent of voting power. Despite its current disdain for multilateral institutions, the Trump administration has

had a constructive relationship with the World Bank. To its credit, the administration even endorsed a US\$13 billion (S\$17.6 billion) capital increase for the Bank last year. However, there is growing concern among development experts that given its well-known positions on key issues, a Trump administration nominee for president might not be keen to support some of the World Bank's initiatives, such as climate-change-related financing, support for public sector institutions or co-financing of projects with Chinese development banks, in which the Bank is active.

After Mr Kim announced his resignation, the Bank's board said it will immediately start the process for selecting his successor. There is no shortage of potential candidates. The world has many experienced professionals with impressive track records of institutional leadership and familiarity with the problems of the developing world.

What is critical is the integrity of the process, which should be open to nominees from all member countries, transparent and merit-based. During the last selection process in 2012, the World Bank's board was divided between rival contenders from Colombia and Nigeria, which enabled Mr Kim, the US nominee, to get the job.

This time, the board needs to unite behind a well-qualified, globally respected candidate who can command the trust and support of the Bank's diverse membership.

Measuring the economy: Look to human capital

The wage bill as a proportion of GDP is becoming outdated amid structural changes. A more nuanced approach is needed as the line between labour and capital blurs.

Toh Mun Heng

For The Straits Times

An important indicator that policymakers must keep track of is that of wage share in gross domestic product (GDP). Wage share is the ratio of workers' compensation to GDP. It is a useful guide to an economy's complexities and long-term trends.

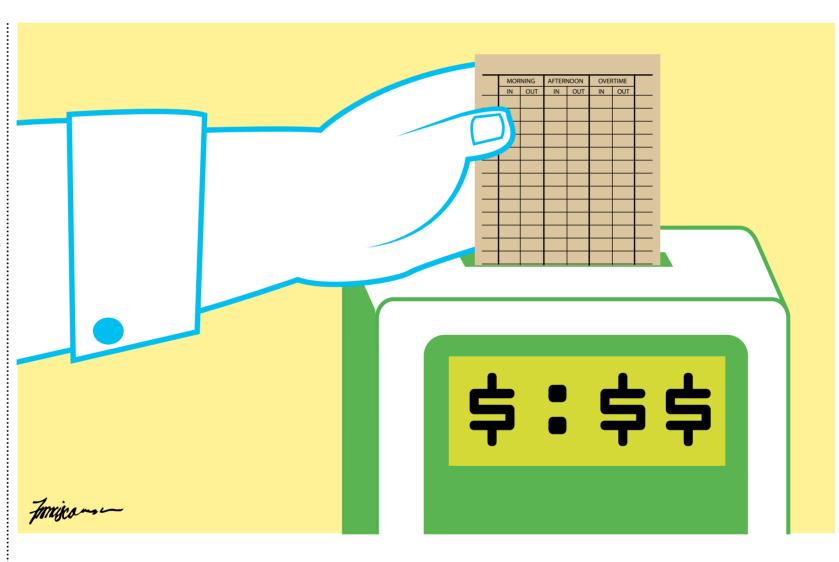
The use of wage share as an indicator was recently examined by former NTUC secretary-general Lim Boon Heng ("Getting the picture right on wage share in Singapore"; Dec 12), in a Straits Times article adapted from a memo he wrote for NTUC staff. It said that the wage component of GDP offers a useful indication of the overall structure of an economy, but he cautioned that one has to understand the local attributes and longer-term trends.

Indeed, local factors and the part they play can be seen in this example from the 1985 recession: An aggressive increase in Central Provident Fund contribution rates in years before that caused Singapore's wage share of GDP to soar. The wage share of Singapore's economy and manufacturing sector had registered 46.3 per cent and 53.5 per cent respectively in 1985, up from 37.4 per cent and 39.9 per cent in 1980.

However, this had the effect of squeezing profits and resulted in reduced competitiveness among export-oriented manufacturers in 1985. Some even contemplated quitting Singapore.

The usual explanations for changes in wage share include technological change, globalisation, financial markets, product and labour market institutions, the bargaining power of labour and unemployment. In recent years, a decline in wage share has been recorded for many countries, especially those in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In an era when robots are gaining greater use and displacing jobs done by humans, it is interesting to look at how wage share is defined and how that might have room for improvement. It is especially interesting, considering that Singapore's wage share is the lowest ! labour productivity of a worker.



among the developed economies.

REASONS FOR LOW WAGE SHARE There are several possible reasons why this might be so:

Measurement issue: Measuring the wage bill is not so simple in practice. Compensation of employees excludes income from self-employment. So if there are more entrepreneurs and self-employed people, the labour share will decline. Besides, in modern corporations workers can be paid partly with stock options and profit-sharing schemes.

It is an economic necessity for a foreign direct investment (FDI)-dependent economy: Alow wage-share economy simply translates into a high profit-share economy. Capital share in developed economies is around 30 per cent. The presence of foreign capital is due to higher return on capital in Singapore. (Or else the investors would have stayed at home.) Thus, with Singapore remunerating foreign capital at a higher return than the places they came from, it means a lower wage share for Singapore. It may be perceived as a premium Singaporeans pay to retain FDI in the economy to secure employment and spillover benefits

Wage share is simply the ratio of the total wage bill to nominal GDP: It can also be expressed as the ratio of the real wage rate to the

to local enterprises.

The real wage is the nominal wage rate adjusted for price changes, while labour productivity is the output per worker.

If the wage share is constant, it implies that relative change in the real wage is matched by the relative change in labour productivity or vice versa. In the past, wage share has been kept low and stable by the influx of foreign workers despite low productivity growth. In more recent times, when productivity is inching up with the introduction of more technologies, real wages are also rising to maintain a stable wage share.

If Singapore is successful in getting productivity growing faster than the real wage rate, then a declining labour share is not a surprising outcome. However, it is also important to note that a rising wage share resulting from real wage growing faster than productivity improvement will soon lead to loss of competitiveness. A judicious balance is necessary.

As noted by Mr Lim, the wage share varies across industries: In fact, the aggregate national wage share is a weighted average of the wage share of industries in the economy. The weights are the proportions of value-added contributed by each industry in the overall GDP.

As such, the changes in wage share over time can be understood as the sum of the changes in the industrial structure of the economy and changes of wage share in different industries.

So, as the economy restructures and shifts to high value-added (VA) activities, we will expect workers to earn higher wages, boosting the wage share. However, high VA activities often have less labour content and low wage share. Overall, $the\,restructuring\,of\,the\,economy$ resulted in a relatively constant wage share in the aggregate.

A final reason for Singapore's low wage share is an enlightened union movement that is not solely concerned about raising workers' remuneration: In many situations, such as during financial crises, unions may appear more interested in maintaining job security and employment. The rationale, seldom understood by many, is that an unemployed worker not only loses his wage, but also suffers the erosion of skill and depreciation of human capital. Human capital refers to the knowledge, talent and experience accumulated over time in individual workers. This erosion makes it doubly hard for them to secure the next job.

So it may be advisable to engage workers on a part-time basis rather than retrench them, to accommodate the lower manpower requirements faced by companies in a business downturn. Such flexibility reduces firing costs and labour hoarding. This translates to lowering the share of wage in the overall value-added.

LABOUR, CAPITAL LINES BLUR

structure of society mean that it is no longer accurate to associate labour income with the labour class, and capital income with members in the top echelons of society.

For example, since increasingly more people save for retirement, a part of the income of capital actually accrues to the ordinary working population.

As more citizens gain access to financial markets and invest in the shares of corporations, they stand to benefit from dividends and capital gains. According to Dr Alan Kruger, a former White House chief economist and a well-known scholar on labour economics, the rise of employee stock ownership and investments in pension funds, coupled with increases in compensation for top executives through stock options, all contribute to the blurring of lines between labour and capital income.

Furthermore, the expanding role of the state, which serves as an intermediary between the productive sector and households, means that sources of government transfers and taxation policies must be taken into consideration when relating the distribution of income among owners of capital, workers and landlords to personal distribution of income.

It is now common to recognise the contribution of different types of capital: traditional physical capital, IT capital, IT software, artificial intelligence robots, et cetera. Similarly, labour inputs are also disaggregated into a spectrum Changes in the economic and social : of skills which can be

complementary or substitutes. This makes the simple measure of wage share based on headcount and average wage less useful, as the composition of the inputs - labour and capital – matters in the final measure of the labour share.

Substitution occurs not only between capital and labour. It occurs between workers of varying skill levels. Research has found that the substitution between capital and low-skilled workers is much higher than that between capital and highly skilled workers. Machines are likely to make lowly skilled workers superfluous, but companies require qualified workers who can operate and manage the machines.

Disaggregation into different categories of labour can allow for more nuanced policy advice.

For instance, considering only an aggregate labour force, greater wage regulation (such as through more extensive minimum wage legislation) seems to be a positive determinant of labour share and reducing income inequality.

However, with disaggregation of labour, we may arrive at more discerning policy conclusions: Wage regulation at the lower end of the skill spectrum may result in unemployment, as firms substitute capital for low-skilled labour and invest in automation, and the wage share of the low-skilled workers may suffer instead.

In addition, it is interesting to note that innovation leads to non-neutral technological progress among different types of labour. For instance, robotisation tends to increase the productivity of the least-skilled and middle-skilled workers, while computerisation increases the productivity of middle-skilled labour.

Workers who can cope with the introduction of technologies are able to secure their employment and are paid higher wages.

The role of human capital in the determination of wage share is crucial. Ultimately, it is the skill, experience and knowledge acquired and used in production that provide the worker with legitimate rewards and remuneration.

Workers are not to be remunerated for simply offering time and physical presence in overseeing production of goods and services.

Such tasks will increasingly be done by machines more cheaply and efficiently. For instance, a worker in the landscaping industry is increasingly valued, not for the tasks he performs on the ground, but for the ideas and patterns he can contribute to the final product.

A security guard's monitoring and surveillance job can be taken over by sensors and closed-circuit television on a 24/7 basis. His continued employment and remuneration are based on his expertise in handling $the \, surveillance \, equipment,$ experience and his drafting schemes that can deter unauthorised and undesirable intrusion, ensuring the safety of the community and

properties under his charge. The share of the remuneration to human capital is perhaps a more pertinent indicator than simply the wage share to consider in the creation and distribution of wealth in the nation.

 Dr Toh Mun Heng is associate professor at the Department of Strategy & Policy, National University of Singapore Business School.

Why Trump's weakness masks US president's power

Four decades after Watergate, the 'imperial presidency' looks alive and well despite a slew of reforms

Kevin M. Kruse and Iulian E. Zelizer

For all his bluster, Mr Donald Trump is generally seen by presidential observers as a shockingly weak president.

Brought to office in an election in which he lost the popular vote, his approval ratings have remained consistently low. Even with his party in control of the White House and Congress for two years, beyond a typical Republican tax cut, Mr Trump failed to secure a signature legislative accomplishment.

The President may seem weak but the presidency remains strong.

Mr Trump has illustrated that even a feeble commander-in-chief can impose his will on the nation if he lacks any sense of restraint or respect for political norms and guard rails.

True, Mr Trump has not been able to run roughshod over Congress or ignore the constraints of the federal courts. But he has been able to inflict extensive damage on United States political institutions and public culture.

He has used his power to aggravate, rather than calm, the fault lines that have divided the US. His "wall" government shutdown is the latest example of his misuse of executive power.

To end this essentially pointless stand-off of his own making, he is exploring the use of national emergency powers to build a wall Congress and a majority of the

public don't want.

fell from grace.

The Trump administration has provided a new example of an old concept: the "imperial presidency". That term, famously used by historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr in 1973 to describe the excesses and abuses of the Nixon White House, fell out of use almost as soon as former president Richard Nixon

The reckoning of Watergate and the first resignation of a US president seemed to show that the executive branch was not as uncontrollable as it had once

POST-WATERGATE CHECKS

Congress enacted a wide range of reforms that promised to restrain presidential power. The War Powers Act of 1973 created mechanisms to ensure that Congress authorised the deployment of American troops abroad. The Budget Reform of 1974 centralised the process used by the House and the Senate to make decisions about spending money so as to make the legislative branch more of an equal of the executive.

The Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1974 established a system of public finance for presidential elections along with spending and contribution limits.

The National Emergencies Act of 1976 authorised the president to initiate emergency powers of government, but with the condition that he or she specify the particular provisions in detail. (This is the authority President Trump has reportedly explored as a way of : Since the 1970s, Democrats and

funding his wall.)

Intelligence reforms imposed limits on the CIA and FBI, whose surveillance and national security operations had greatly enhanced the president's power.

Last but not least, the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 sought to watch against a replay of Watergate by establishing the Office of the Independent Counsel to ensure that there would be independent investigations into executive branch corruption.

Despite these reforms, four decades later, the "imperial presidency" still seems to be alive and well.

WHY RESTRAINTS FAILED

What went wrong?

The most familiar challenge stems from the fact that in the midst of national security crises, much of the nation remains willing to allow presidents to respond to its perceived enemies.

Despite the War Powers Act and the larger lessons of Vietnam, Congress has continued to allow presidents to send troops into combat without a formal declaration of war.

In response to the terrorist attacks of Sept 11, Congress passed legislation authorising a vast expansion of the national security system that gave then President George W. Bush and his successors access to new organisations, programmes and institutions through which to pursue national security goals without congressional support.

Republicans have sorted themselves by party, with less room for internal dissent and less of a will to criticise or challenge a president from one's own party.

Both parties have been willing to grant the president more authority when it served their purpose.

The main dynamic for Democrats has centred on party leaders supporting presidents who use executive action, through regulatory orders and rule-making, to deal with urgent policy problems that congressional Republicans oppose.

Former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton turned to executive

The reformers of the 1970s missed the ways in which reforms simply cannot restrain a president who doesn't care about institutions... Mr Trump has revealed that when a president is willing to cross what seemed to be clear lines, no one is there to hold him back.

power to deal with energy and climate change when Congress refused to do so.

Former president Barack Obama did the same on immigration after congressional obstruction prevented compromise legislation from passing.

Republicans have done much in the same vein, in moments of divided and united government alike. Republicans have also gone a step further to protect the party's electoral interests through the use of, for instance, strict voter-ID

Aggressive presidents also depend on a partisan media to do their work without too much pushback.

Mr Trump has demonstrated how this could be turned into a powerful tool for the White House. He has routinely repeated stories seen on the Fox & Friends morning programme and leaned on conservative cable hosts such as Sean Hannity and Lou Dobbs for advice as well.

Indeed, the line between the Trump White House and conservative media outlets has become blurred beyond recognition.

Former CNBC host Larry Kudlow now serves as head of the National Economic Council, while former Fox & Friends host Heather Nauert has been nominated to serve as ambassador to the United Nations. Mr Bill Shine, a former executive at Fox News, now runs the White House Communications Office.

The imperial presidency is, in many ways, propped up by media partisans who insist that the naked emperor has glorious new clothes. Mr Trump has revealed that the president can act "imperially" because norms matter as much as

rules and procedure. The reformers of the 1970s missed the ways in which reforms simply cannot restrain a president who doesn't care about institutions.

The most important source of presidential restraint has been the character of the person in office. For all his flaws, Nixon was unwilling to tear down the government to save himself.

Mr Trump has revealed that when a president is willing to cross what seemed to be clear lines, no one is there to hold him back.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE CHECK

With Democrats now in control of the House of Representatives and the Mueller investigation seemingly coming to a conclusion $as \, well, \dot{Mr} \, Trump \, will \, likely \, be \, held \,$ to account, in one form or another.

But it's important to remember that the "imperial presidency" will outlive any one president unless more is done to institute real checks and balances on the office

Congress has the most effective means of putting new limits on the White House through oversight. Many of the tools that Congress needs are right in front of it, holding serious hearings about the material in a Mueller report or making sure that legislation such as the National Emergency Act is enforced, but it must use them.

If Mr Trump invokes emergency power to build a wall, Congress needs to respond by passing legislation that will take back some of the power it granted in 1976.

Most important, reforming presidential power will fall on the shoulders of voters. In the end, the most effective check on presidential power is to elect presidents who will exercise their authority with some restraint and respect our democratic institutions. That is the choice voters will have in 2020. NYTIMES

 Kevin M. Kruse and Julian E. Zelizer, history professors at Princeton, are the authors of Fault Lines: A History Of The United States Since 1974.

Brexit is the certain route to a divided Britain

A second referendum will not mend all the fissures opened up by Brexit but it might save the UK from the break-up of the union

Philip Stephens

The most often-heard argument against a second vote on British membership of the European Union is also the least plausible. By this account, revisiting the issue would be "divisive". Old wounds would never close. Deal or no deal with Brussels, the sooner the barricades are thrown up across the Channel, the sooner a spirit of national unity can be restored.

This relies on the outlandish assumption that the 48 per cent of Brits who voted in 2016 to remain part of the EU are now content to hum the English nationalists' tunes.

Those who saw the country's fortunes as inextricably bound up with Europe are ready to shrug their shoulders at the prospect of a poorer, less secure, closed Britain.

In the real world, revisiting the decision taken in 2016 would be divisive only in the sense that the Brexit vote was itself divisive.

Plebiscites are exercises not in democracy but in crude majoritarianism. The institutions and norms of liberal democracy are there to protect the rights of minorities. Referendums afford no such respect to the loser.

In two of the nations of the union that comprises the United Kingdom - England and Wales - a majority backed leaving the EU. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the greater number wanted to remain. Opinion across all four nations was divided around just about every demographic axis.

England's great metropolitan cities - London most notably produced big pro-European majorities. They were outvoted in provincial cities and towns and rural areas.

Across Britain, young people



norms of liberal democracy are there to protect the rights of minorities. Referendums afford no such respect to the loser. PHOTO: REUTERS

backed staying in the EU by a hefty margin – only to see a different course set for their lives by those whose futures are mostly behind them. The university-educated affluent were solidly Remain. The less advantaged mostly joined the Leave camp.

Two-and-a-half years after the referendum, the chasm looks, if anything, deeper. Traditional left-right divides have been rubbed out by the Brexit fault line.

Opinion pollsters say the numbers suggest that a second referendum most likely would see a shift just sufficient to produce a Remain vote.

Brexiters warn in one breath that a second referendum would be

dangerously divisive and in the next claim, curiously, that it would hand them a landslide. A dispassionate view would probably

judge the outcome too close to call. It is safe to say that, whatever the fortunes of Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal when Parliament votes on the package next week, the costs and consequences of leaving the EU will be felt and fought over for years to come.

Brexit is a process, not an event. Untangling the closely woven threads of integration will not be easy. The arguments could rage for a decade. Along the way, the young will not be applauding the old for denying them a future in Europe.

More likely the fractures will

rage for a decade. Along the way the young will not be applauding the old for denying them a future in Europe. More likely the fractures will widen. The UK union is the likely victim.

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widen. The UK union is the likely

When the people of Scotland voted in 2014 against separation, they were opting for an open, over a closed, future. Scotland's unique ties with the other three nations of the UK sat alongside Britain's place in the EU. Brexit changes fundamentally this calculus.

For all the nonsense spouted by some Brexiters about "Global Britain", the road out of Europe leads back to little England.

What else does "taking back control" of borders mean except closing the door to outsiders?

Leaving the single market and Customs union is an act of protectionism. It will restrict

exchanges – personal as well as economic and political – between Britain and its neighbours.

At its root, Brexit is an expression of English nationalism - a rejection of "Britishness", the ingeniously expansive identity invented to embrace UK union and empire.

The next time they are given the chance, the people of Scotland will surely choose Europe over England.

Northern Ireland's place in the union is no longer beyond question. For the moment, Mrs May depends for her majority at Westminster on the votes of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

But the implacable stance on the Irish border that has seen the DUP hold the Prime Minister to ransom in the Brexit negotiations also marks out the distance between unflinching Ulster unionism and broader opinion in Northern Ireland. Demography is on the side of those seeking a united Ireland. Brexit pushes in the same direction.

It is too soon to say what Parliament will come up with if, as expected, Mrs May's deeply flawed Brexit blueprint falls to heavy defeat next week. Nothing can be ruled out in a nation suffering what can only be described as a collective nervous breakdown.

Hardline Brexiters call themselves champions of parliamentary sovereignty. Yet they rail against Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons, for giving MPs the opportunity to exercise that sovereignty.

These Brexiters also whisper that "the people" (they mean angry nationalists who have been trying to intimidate pro-European MPs) will take over the streets if the MPs dare to challenge the outcome of the 2016 referendum. When last did the House of Commons bow to fear of the mob?

This is what happens when parliamentary democracy falls victim to a demagoguery that decrees that once voters have taken the "right" decision they cannot change their minds.

It would be naive to think that a second referendum would close all the fissures opened up by Brexit. It might save the UK from the break-up of the union. FINANCIAL TIMES



Supporters of Brazil's newly-elected President Jair Bolsonaro with a banner bearing his photo. The writer argues that the right-wing Mr Bolsonaro and others with similar leanings have ridden to power by capitalising on the growing animus against the established political elites and exploiting latent nativist sentiment. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

It's time left-wing parties offer better solutions

Inclusive prosperity cannot be achieved by simply redistributing income from the rich to the poor

Dani Rodrik

The main political beneficiaries of the social and economic fractures wrought by globalisation and technological change, it is fair to say, have so far been right-wing populists. Politicians such as Mr Donald Trump in the United States Mr Viktor Orban in Hungary and Mr Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil have ridden to power by capitalising on the growing animus against established political elites and

exploiting latent nativist sentiment. The left and progressive groups have been largely missing in action.

The left's relative weakness partly reflects the decline of unions and organised labour groups, which have historically formed the

backbone of leftist and socialist movements. But ideological abdication has also played an important role.

As parties of the left became more dependent on the educated elites instead of the working class, their policy ideas started aligning more closely with financial and corporate interests.

The remedies on offer from mainstream leftist parties remained correspondingly limited: more spending on education, improved social-welfare policies, a bit more progressivity in taxation, and little else.

The left's programme was more about sugar-coating the prevailing system than addressing the fundamental sources of economic, social and political inequities.

There is now growing recognition that tax-and-transfer for improving social policies can go only so far.

While there is much room for improving social insurance and tax regimes, especially in the US, deeper reforms are needed to help level playing fields in favour of ordinary workers and families across a broad range of domains.

That means focusing on product, labour and financial markets, on technology policies, and on the rules of the political game.

Inclusive prosperity cannot be achieved by simply redistributing income from the rich to the poor, or from the most productive parts of the economy to less productive sectors. It requires less-skilled workers and smaller firms as well as lagging regions to be more fully integrated with the most advanced parts of the economy.

In other words, we must start with productive re-integration of the domestic economy. Large and productive firms have While there is much room insurance and tax regimes, especially in the US, deeper reforms are needed to help level playing fields in favour of ordinary workers and families across a broad range of domains. That means focusing on product, labour and financial markets, on technology policies, and on the rules of the political game.

technologies that augment labour-market opportunities for less-skilled workers. The late economist Tony

labour-replacing technologies, governments could promote

Atkinson, in his magisterial book Inequality, questioned the wisdom of governments supporting the development of autonomous vehicles, without due consideration for the effects on taxi and truck drivers.

More recently, the economists Daron Acemoglu, Anton Korinek and Pascual Restrepo have written about how AI can be deployed in new ways to increase labour demand, for example by allowing ordinary workers to engage in activities that were previously out of reach for them.

But moving in this direction will require a conscious effort by governments to review their innovation policies and to put the appropriate private-sector incentives in place.

Labour markets, too, need rebalancing. The weakening of unions and protections for workers has eroded traditional sources of countervailing power. Recent research has shown that firms retain significant bargaining leverage over employees, depressing wages and working conditions. Reversing these trends will require a range of pro-labour policies, including the promotion of unionisation, higher minimum wages and adequate regulatory standards for workers in the "gig economy".

Finance is yet another area requiring significant surgery. Most advanced economies' financial sectors remain bloated. They pose continuing risks to economic stability without providing compensating benefits in terms of increased investment in productive activities. As Stanford's Professor Anat Admati and others have long argued, banks require, at a minimum, higher capital requirements and tighter regulatory scrutiny. The fact that financial institutions have escaped relatively unscathed from the crisis of 2008-2009 speaks volumes about their political power.

As the failures of financial regulation suggest, important as such economic reforms are, they need to be complemented with measures that remedy the asymmetry of political access.

In the US, holding elections on workdays, rather than weekends or holidays - together with restrictive registration rules, gerrymandering and myriad other electoral rules – places ordinary workers at a significant disadvantage. This is on top of campaign finance rules that have enabled corporations and society's wealthiest members to exert inordinate influence on legislation.

The Democratic Party will face a critical test in the next US presidential election, less than two years away. In the meantime, it has a choice to make. Will it remain the party of merely adding sweeteners to an unjust economic system? Or does it have the courage to address unfair inequality by attacking it at its roots? PROJECT SYNDICATE

 Dani Rodrik is professor of international political economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is the author of Straight Talk On Trade: Ideas For A Sane World Economy.

Imagining Apple's post-iPhone future

Leonid Bershidsky

Apple's reported plans to cut iPhone production by 10 per cent in the first quarter of this year make it increasingly clear that the company's base of loyal users isn't an inexhaustible resource from whom it can forever extract a rent through its services offerings.

Apple needs to compete more vigorously in all the other markets in which it is present, without relying on the network effects of its large installed base.

Whether you blame economic headwinds in key markets such as China (as Apple chief executive officer Tim Cook did in a recent letter to investors) or the company's own mistakes, or any combination of these factors, Apple appears about to slide down the table of biggest smartphone suppliers by unit sales.

It is already the third-biggest supplier, after Samsung and Huawei, having lost the second spot to the Chinese company earlier this year. And if it can't sell

as many phones as it once hoped at its super-premium prices, and if the pricing doesn't change, other companies will pass it as they have already done in China.

In the medium to long term, the decline can only undermine Apple's ability to feed off the "halo effect" from its installed base, estimated at about one billion iPhones globally at the end of last year.

In the company's other markets, its products and services will increasingly compete on their own merits, with less help from the network effects that push iPhone users towards everything else

The company inevitably will need to face up to the fact that, as things stand, few Apple products are strongly competitive among the non-iPhone users.

Perhaps the best example of how Apple can compete with no help from its installed base is in the headphone market.

Apple's AirPods have an 83 per cent unit sales share in the narrow "completely wireless" category. It also leads in the market for more expensive models with its



Apple needs to compete more vigorously in all the other markets in which it is present, without relying on the network effects of its large installed base of loyal iPhone users, says the writer. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

(somewhat neglected) Beats brand. : Together, these successes make it one of the three overall market leaders, along with Sony and the Harman brands.

The Apple TV, which also doesn't need an iPhone to work, is also highly competitive among streaming devices offering 4K resolution, trailing only the Amazon Fire in sales.

In other markets where Apple's products and services don't require an iPhone, the company isn't doing great. Despite huge help from the installed base, and despite a successful marketing strategy in the United States, Apple Music is not taking global market share away from Spotify and has about half of its rival's share of music streaming subscribers.

In smart-speaker sales, Apple is far behind Amazon and Google. In personal computer sales, it's fifth in unit terms and

underperforming the market. In video content, Apple has stuck to the obsolete sale and rental model, missing out on the rapidly growing subscription-based streaming business.

a critical role to play here. They

must recognise that their success

depends on the public goods that

governments supply - everything

from law and order and intellectual

property rules to infrastructure and

their national and sub-national

public investment in skills and

research and development. In

exchange, they must invest in their local communities, suppliers

social responsibility, but as a

mainline activity.

and workforce – not as corporate

In an earlier age, governments

engaged in agricultural extension

activities to spread new techniques

to small farmers. There is a similar

Bartik of the W. E. Upjohn Institute

services", though the ideas apply to

Governments that collaborate

with businesses to encourage the

technologies and management

economy can avail themselves

of a well-established repertoire of

A second area of public action

technologies such as automation

and artificial intelligence (AI)

labour-replacing, adversely

affecting low-skill workers in

case in the future. Instead of

that inadvertently promote

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policies (such as capital subsidies)

techniques to the rest of the

concerns the direction of

technological change. New

role today for what Dr Timothy

for Employment Research calls

"manufacturing extension

productive services as well.

dissemination of frontier

such initiatives.

have typically been

Apple's only unqualified success ince the iPhone and, for a while, the iPad, has been in wearables.

The Apple Watch was last year's No. 1 in sales. But the device is iPhone-dependent, meaning the company isn't well protected against the competition, whose smartwatches work with all kinds of phones.

That is how phone-indifferent Walmart Pay got bigger than Apple Pay in the US, even though the latter is, for now, the clear global leader in mobile payments.

If the iPhone ceases to be a reliable growth engine for Apple, and especially if the installed base starts shrinking gradually, Mr Cook needs to put a lot of effort in each of the company's existing markets to maintain its dominance or catch up to the leaders.

That means competing more actively on quality and price in the headphone, smart-speaker and PC markets; facing off with Spotify in terms of audio and recommendation quality while expanding the choice of music: finally launching a video subscription service that can go head to head with Netflix.

It also means freeing the services offerings and the Apple Watch from platform exclusivity by unlinking them from the iPhone : and other Apple devices as much as technically possible, and letting iPhone users interface with other manufacturers' devices.

This year, Apple is clearly making some moves in the latter direction: The iTunes video store will be available on new Samsung smart TVs, and other rival manufacturers' devices will begin supporting Apple's AirPlay and HomeKit functionality, making it possible for iPhone users to stream content to various television sets and run all kinds of smart home equipment.

But that's still a far cry from the complete platform independence that Apple would need to become a services company first and foremost, like smaller and more

specialised Spotify and Netflix. Weaning itself from iPhone dependence will be a painful experience for Apple, not only because the stock market will punish it for being over-optimistic for too long, but also because the importance of each market in which the company is involved will

increase. The iPhone's enormous shadow won't hide errors as well as it did in the past. And competing hard against specialised players with a lot of skin in the game will become more of a necessity. The new situation requires a sharper focus from people in each of Apple's lines of business and more multitasking from Mr Cook, whether or not he is willing to see things this way. **BLOOMBERG**



The writer says millennials need help plotting a course that will reliably lead them to upward mobility, adding that job-search sites and government researchers could team up to outline promising careers and then work with university career counsellors to help students visualise possible directions they might go. PHOTO: REUTERS

The system offers little

that educated people

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to the many years spent in

people are forced to spend

bewildering jungle of jobs

that didn't exist 10 years

ago, such as social media

marketer, growth hacker,

reason why millennials have such

organisations where they work.

A 2016 Gallup survey found that

US said they were open to other job

opportunities and 55 per cent said

they didn't feel engaged at work.

And, of course, not knowing

where to go next can be especially

nerve-wracking when student debt

collectors are breathing down one's

neck. Even measured against rising

wages for the college-educated,

student loans have increased. In

: other words, what educated

60 per cent of young adults in the

classrooms rather than

earning money, young

years navigating a

data technician.

low commitment to the

careers are taking too long

Burnt-out, educated millennials need careers, not just jobs

Noah Smith

At a time when lots of attention is being paid to inequality, poverty and the travails of the working class, it might seem callous to worry about the problems of the educated elite.

But there are important reasons to be concerned about the fates of recent college graduates.

First, a healthy economy needs to make optimal use of talent – if smart people are funnelled into useless or counterproductive tasks, their skills and the resources spent educating them will go to waste.

Second, when educated people's expectations are frustrated by a dysfunctional economic system, they can turn their formidable talent and energy towards disrupting that system, leading to social unrest. So when educated millennials talk about being fed up with their careers, policymakers ought to listen.

A recent essay by writer Anne Helen Petersen gained attention for characterising the United States millennial experience as one of "burnout", describing the author's own frustrations with a stymied academic career and crushing student loans.

But what exactly is ailing educated young people?

One problem is that too many are trying to become professors.

The end of the university
expansion of the 20th century, as
well as efforts by schools to restrain
spiralling costs, has led to the
near-disappearance of the coveted
through the maze. The knowledge
that they might be missing out on
better opportunities, and the
frustration of not knowing where
they should go next, might be one

tenure-track jobs: PhD students spend their time ensconced in an academic environment, where success equals professorship.

Their role models and advisers are all professors. But the resulting monomaniacal focus on academia often causes them to miss out on the burgeoning universe of rewarding, lucrative private-sector jobs and instead consigns them to being low-paid adjuncts or precarious post-docs as their student loans go unpaid.

Meanwhile, other formerly reliable career options for those with humanities degrees are drying up. The demand for lawyers, journalists, teachers and government workers is anaemic and shows no signs of recovering.

The system offers little guidance. It's not simply that educated people in the US aren't getting jobs – in fact, their unemployment rate is just 2.1 per cent. Instead, their careers are taking too long to get

In addition to the many years spent in classrooms rather than earning money, young people are forced to spend years navigating a bewildering jungle of jobs that didn't exist 10 years ago, such as social media marketer, growth hacker, data technician.

Other than hapless university career counsellors, stripped-down job websites and online forums full of unreliable chatter, there is no one to help educated young people through the maze. The knowledge that they might be missing out on better opportunities, and the frustration of not knowing where they should go next, might be one

they need help plotting a course that will reliably lead them to upward mobility and justify the expense of their education.

But how can career paths be charted in a world in which work changes rapidly?

New technologies and tools must be brought to bear.

must be brought to bear.
Job-search sites and government researchers could team up to outline promising careers. They could then team up with university career counsellors to help students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels visualise possible directions they might go.

millennials need isn't just jobs;

This wouldn't guarantee upward mobility or a set professional track but it would give students more of an idea of what their careers might look like, helping them plan accordingly. It would be especially useful for PhD students who would otherwise be fixated on academia.

In addition, new institutions could be created to give smart young people the option to trade mobility for security.

Top companies could establish lifetime employment systems, like those traditionally used in Japan, for those workers who don't mind sacrificing pay and mobility for security.

For those who do prefer to hop between jobs, the government and job search services could team up to create something such as Denmark's flexicurity system, which helps workers smoothly move from job to job.

Finally, the US government could cancel some portion of millennials' student loan debt, which at this point is mostly owned by the government. Lifting that burden would cause the national debt to rise but the increase in economic dynamism and workers' well-being will be worth it.

In the future, government should focus on supporting education via grants for low-income students rather than on encouraging students to go into debt. So there are things that can be done to help the burnt-out millennials. The alternative – a disaffected army of smart, educated, angry young people – doesn't bode well for the country. BLOOMBERG.

Making room for second chances in #MeToo era

Tyler Cowen

The longer the #MeToo movement continues, the more important these questions will become: When should offenders be rehabilitated, allowed to resume their careers, and readmitted to polite society?

Whether we like it or not, as the list of wrongdoers grows, questions of forgiveness will begin to outnumber questions of punishment. The thing is, questions of forgiveness are never entirely easy.

Much of Christian doctrine, and especially Catholicism, emphasises the value of confession, forgiveness and redemption. Thus, it is not hard to convince many Americans that sinners should be given a second chance.

This impulse occasionally finds its way into policy. Just last month, a prison-reform Bill became law, reflecting notions that criminals can indeed be rehabilitated.

In her book, The Up Side Of Down, Washington Post columnist Megan McArdle stresses how many features of American life, including bankruptcy law and start-up culture, depend on second, third or even more chances.

And indeed, second chances are being doled out. Very recently, Louis C.K. has started doing stand-up comedy again.
Conductor Charles Dutoit is back on the podium.

The more delicate truth is that, in the context of the #MeToo movement, forgiveness carries great dangers. I am not referring to those asking for it; rather, I am talking about those in a position to offer it. The survivors of such abuse often feel shame, guilt and a loss of confidence and self-esteem. It is very costly, both psychologically and practically, for such individuals to step forward and levy charges. An emphasis on forgiveness could reinforce victims' tendencies to bury the crimes and wrongdoings.

Even now, #MeToo victims are unlikely to do or say anything in response to their troubles. They are already looking for reasons to move on. They may forgive prematurely, before taking appropriate action, either at the personal or public level.

Forgiveness cannot be complete if it does not come from those who have been wronged. Yet, forgiveness is not entirely up to them, either.

The result is a set of conflicting and probably irreconcilable values. America believes in equal treatment before the law. But America's increasingly powerful system of social pressures and sanctions does not provide for equal treatment.

Some of the accused have received second chances, but not all: Former senator Al Franken probably will not be welcomed back to Congress, and Washington-based restaurateur Mike Isabella saw his empire crash and does not seem on the verge of rehabilitation. It is unsettling how much judgments of harassment, and of when redemption or at least tolerance will be offered, depend on context.

There is relatively little outrage

at John Lennon, for example, even though he was a confessed woman-beater and wrote The Beatles song Run For Your Life, which coldly presents violence against women and perhaps glorifies it. The song is still played regularly on satellite radio, even though it is not a particularly distinguished piece of music. Yet, Baby, It's Cold Outside became a national controversy.

national controversy.

Maybe it is easier to attack a
stodgy song from the 1940s. Or
maybe it's that Lennon and The
Beatles have long had massive
"street cred" with the American left.

Spotify stopped promoting the music of R. Kelly, but plenty of misogynistic and violent songs remain in rap music and other genres. Racial slurs, not always used ironically, are common.

It is difficult to outline a coherent principle for differentiating what is targeted for boycott or reprobation and what is not.

Morgan Freeman is returning to his television work with National Geographic (though not his Visa commercials), even after #MeToo accusations from eight women. Is it irrelevant that he has a kindly face and voice and has played God in the movies? Should it matter that he is more than 80 years old?

Louis C.K.'s return to comedy has occasioned controversy, in part because his new routine made fun of people with intellectual disabilities and, more generally, did not show exquisite sensitivity. But the crude and rude have long been a staple of comedy shows, including his. Should edginess or outright offensiveness matter more for the previously guilty?

In standard law and economics theory, the argument goes like this: When offenders are hard to catch, it is both efficient and in the public interest to make punishments especially harsh so as to deter appropriately.

In the current environment, private social pressures are producing some effective and overdue punishments. Yet, there is still a place for forgiveness, a need to be humane and, sometimes, a case for rehabilitation, even (or especially?) for those who have helped to make the world a richer place (Picasso anyone?).

Realistically, of course, these second chances will be applied selectively. This muddled mix may very well be the best that we can do. BLOOMBERG

In the current environment, private social pressures are producing some effective and overdue punishments. Yet, there is still a place for forgiveness, a need to be humane and, sometimes, a case for rehabilitation, even (or especially?) for those who have helped to make the world a richer place (Picasso anyone?).

Flight attendants aren't waitresses in the sky

Adam Minter

The world's first eight flight attendants took to the air in May 1930. They were all nurses, hired by Boeing Air Transport (forerunner to United Airlines) to give early-era air passengers a greater sense of security on board.

As air travel became safer over the ensuing decades, nurses were no longer required in the cabin. Safety and security, though,

Safety and security, though, remained the primary statutory role of the flight attendant even as passengers and airlines increasingly expected them to perform like

servers at top-end restaurants. On Jan 1, the American low-cost carrier Frontier Airlines broke with that tradition. Henceforth, flight attendants on Frontier flights will be allowed to solicit tips directly from passengers. Frontier argues that the change in policy will reward flight attendants for offering excellent customer service. In reality, tipping on planes – like tipping in restaurants – will bear little relationship to service quality. More importantly, it will make passengers and flight attendants less safe.

In 2016, Frontier pioneered in-flight tipping when it added a gratuity screen to the credit-card payment tablets used when customers bought food and drinks. Any tips would then be pooled and shared among the whole crew.

The new system empowers flight attendants to deploy the gratuity screen at their discretion – and to pocket whatever is tipped.

Passengers are under no obligation to tip. But, knowing that the person expected to keep you safe at 30,000ft might be evaluating your generosity doesn't make the option feel particularly voluntary. And that's where the problems start.

First, if the goal of tipping is to ensure better service, it's a failure from the start. Decades of academic research on tipping have consistently failed to find any meaningful relationship between tipping and good service.

Instead, people tend to tip based on factors that aren't based on performance. For example, multiple studies have found that customers tend to tip white servers better than black ones, and attractive waitresses – especially slender blondes in their 30s – receive more tips than those seen

to be less attractive.

Meanwhile, there's evidence that touching a customer fleetingly – especially a customer of the opposite sex – results in bigger tips. That's problematic, to say the least. When compensation is tied to a sexualised notion of "good service", workers feel pressure to sexualise their appearance and behaviour (leading to a more sexualised workplace), and to tolerate inappropriate behaviour because the customer is king and paymaster.

Unsurprisingly, the restaurant industry is the source of more sexual harassment complaints than any other US industry – and tipped workers are harassed by customers at a higher rate than untipped ones. So far, airlines haven't studied whether something similar

happens in commercial cabins. But that doesn't let them off the hook. Last year, the Association of Flight Attendants, the industry-wide union, reported that "more than two-thirds" of its members have experienced sexual harassment during their careers.

That's not just a personnel issue either. Insofar as sexual harassment undercuts a flight attendant's standing and authority in a cabin, it represents a safety and security risk. That's one reason why the White House recently announced a task force to examine passenger sexual misconduct on commercial aircraft.

Just as bad, tipping has the potential to divert flight attendants from important safety-related tasks to concentrate on service functions that could earn them

more money. In fact, a 2009 study found that attendants were already having problems balancing their post-Sept 11 safety and security duties with their in-flight service role. Regular tipping could make that balancing act even tougher.

The good news is that – so far – no other airline has publicly announced plans to follow Frontier's lead on tipping. But, that could easily change. Frontier is in the midst of a two-year contract dispute with its flight attendants and – like restaurants – the airline might view tips as a way of pushing compensation costs onto customers and off its balance sheet; other airlines may soon feel the same.

Before they adopt the practice, too, the US Department of Transportation ought to take a more rigorous look at how tipping affects airline cabins. Today's flight attendants, just like their forebears, are there to keep passengers safe – and employers ought to reward them properly for doing so.

BLOOMBERG

A28 | THE STRAITS TIMES | FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

BIGPICTURE

WEATHER
Windy, with passing showers
in the afternoon.
High 34 deg C Low 24 deg C
24-hr PSI as of 5pm yesterday: 33 to 48 (Good)



PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MOTOR

TRADERS ASSOCIATION

mediacorp

Awaiting a fairy-tale ending

In a land far, far away – the city of Bolu in north-western Turkey, to be exact – hundreds of luxury houses sit in neat rows, their pointed towers somewhere between a French chateau and Disney castle.

Meant to provide luxury accommodation for foreign buyers, the

AIG

海 HL Bank

houses are, however, standing empty in what is anything but a fairy tale for their investors.

The ambitious Burj Al Babas development by Sarot Group – which includes 732 chateau-style villas, swimming pools, Turkish baths, health and beauty centres, a shopping cen-

tre and a mosque – has been hit by regional turmoil and a slump in the Turkish construction industry.

According to the Hurriyet newspaper, customers from the Gulf countries bought 350 villas for between US\$370,000 (S\$500,000) and US\$530,000.

However, the decision to apply for bankruptcy protection came after some of them could not pay for the villas they had bought, said Sarot's deputy chairman Mezher Yerdelen.

Despite this, he hopes the project will be inaugurated in October.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, BLOOMBERG



AMAL



BUSINESS PARK CENTRE COLLECTIVE SALE BID C3

Singapore, Andhra Pradesh start work on start-up area in Amaravati

Welcome Gallery is first structure to be built in central zone of new capital city

Nirmala Ganapathy India Bureau Chief In New Delhi

Singapore and the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh have taken the first steps towards developing the commercial core of the new capital city of Amaravati.

The ignition switch was flicked yesterday when Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S. Iswaran and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu unveiled a commemorative plaque as part of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Welcome Gallery.

Singaporean firms Ascendas-Singbridge and Sembcorp Development are the master developers for the 6.84 sq km stretch of the planned city. The firms are working with the Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC), an Andhra Pradesh government agency.

The gallery will be the first structure to be built in this central zone, also known as the start-up area.

It will be erected across 2.6ha and will be able to accommodate up to



3,000 visitors a day with features such as a city gallery, exhibition and community zones, and coworking spaces for start-ups, said Amaravati Development Partners, an Indian firm formed by the Singaporean firms and ADC.

The progress on Amaravati was

part of talks during the 4th Joint Implementation Steering Committee Meeting chaired by Mr Iswaran, who is also Minister for Communications and Information, and Mr Naidu yesterday. Links between Singapore and Andhra Pradesh have been deepen-

ing over the collaboration to develop the new capital city.

Andhra Pradesh is building the city from scratch across land in the Guntur-Vijayawada region because it lost its capital city Hyderabad to the new state of Telangana.

he new state of Telangana.
Singapore has been involved in

2.6ha

Area which the Welcome Gallery will be erected across.

3,000

Number of visitors a day which the Welcome Gallery will be able to accommodate.

The Welcome Gallery will feature a city gallery, exhibition and community zones, and co-working spaces for start-ups. PHOTO:
ASCENDAS-SINGBRIDGE GROUP

the project since 2014 with Surbana Jurong submitting the city's masterplan in 2015. In 2017, a consortium of Ascendas-Singbridge and Sembcorp Development was announced as the master developers.

Apart from Amaravati, efforts are also under way to deepen economic

links. Mr Iswaran and Mr Naidu noted plans by the Andhra Pradesh-Singapore Business Council, anchored by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and the Confederation of Indian Industry, to facilitate more partnerships in the state between Indian and Singapore companies, said a Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) statement.

It added that the "SBF has launched The Sunrise Programme, a dedicated platform for Singapore companies to secure projects within Andhra Pradesh".

The three-year programme, which aims to reach out to 1,200 companies, is supported by Enterprise Singapore through its Local Enterprise and Association Development Programme, said the MTI.

The SBF said it plans to organise outbound and inbound missions so firms from both sides can get market insights.

Seven Singaporean firms exchanged Memoranda of Understanding and Letters of Intent with Amaravati Development Partners to incorporate their technologies into the Welcome Gallery.

Separately, three MOUs were signed between three Singaporean firms – Erect Group, CKR Group of Companies and ByBiTech – and the Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority and the AP Economic Cities Promotion and Development Corporation to bring Singapore technologies and solutions to Amaravati Construction City, MTI said. The city is a one-stop location providing construction technologies, building materials and leasing of construction equipment.

The two ministers "also commended the progress in skills development, such as the establishment of Singapore SynchroSkills, a joint venture between two Singapore and Indian companies".

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Is Tencent next on US' hit list after Huawei?

Tech giant's popular WeChat app criticised as a tool for data gathering and surveillance

SPYING FEARS

It is common knowledge that private chats on this platform are watched over by Chinese government agents and censors, and it's very likely that the app will contain malware and offer a backdoor to access users' phones.

"

MRZIYANG, senior analyst at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies' China Programme, on WeChat being probably the US' greatest concern when it comes to Tencent.

Claire Huang

Hong Kong Correspondent

It is big and rich, and millions use its WeChat app. Will Tencent be the next Chinese tech giant that the United States puts the squeeze on?

After the arrest of Ms Meng Wanzhou, daughter of the founder of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei, Mr Ren Zhengfei, in Canada last month at the request of the US authorities, some wonder which other Chinese tech giant the US

would get tough with.

Shenzhen-based Tencent cropped up as a possibility, given the popularity of its messaging and epayment app WeChat, which has been long criticised as a tool for data gathering and surveillance. WeChat is the fifth-most popular network globally, after Facebook, YouTube,

WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, said an article on the World Economic Forum website.

Countries including Australia and India have blocked the use of WeChat by their military in the past two years, amid security fears that

important data could be leaked.
Shanghai-based Kaiyuan Capital's managing director Brock Silvers believes Tencent "would seem to be a likely target" given that it is one of China's most successful companies with a very wide reach.

Mr Zi Yang, senior analyst at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies' China Programme, said WeChat is probably the US' greatest concern when it comes to Tencent.

He said: "It is common knowledge that private chats on this platform are watched over by Chinese government agents and censors, and it's very likely that the app will contain malware and offer a backdoor to access users' phones."

He said the US is likely to ban the app in government departments

but restrictions on its use by the wider public will be tough.

Mr Fergus Ryan of think-tank Australian Strategic Policy Institute told The Straits Times that Tencent would eventually attract more attention from the US due to national security worries, but this would take time.

"Tencent, via its messaging app WeChat, poses a different type of risk that Western countries are only just starting to deal with," he said.

So, it is more likely that some other Chinese firm will come under greater US scrutiny first, he said.

Mr Ryan added that recent reports and studies show that the Chinese authorities can deploy an information control strategy through WeChat to control the parameters of political discussions outside Chinese territory.

But more research is needed to shed light on the problem which would then add pressure on governments to develop a policy response, he added.

Retired Singapore diplomat Bilahari Kausikan, who is chairman of the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore, told ST that the new US approach to Chinese tech firms and national security is very clear.

It ranges from blocking firms from crucial contracts, to raising the bar for the Chinese to acquire technology via mergers and acquisitions, to pressuring US allies to follows:

He said: "China is paying the price of prematurely abandoning the Deng Xiaoping approach of 'hiding light and biding time' and it is difficult, if not impossible, for China to go back to that policy."

On Dec 1 last year, Ms Meng, who is Huawei's chief financial officer, was detained in Canada for allegedly

breaching US trade sanctions.

Four months earlier in August, the US passed a defence policy Bill banning the American government from using Chinese firms Huawei and ZTE Corp's equipment amid fears that this could be used for spying. Last month, there were reports that the US is considering an executive order to bar American companies from using equipment from Huawei or ZTE on the grounds of significant national security risks.

Amid the race to roll out the next-generation mobile communications or 5G, the US and its allies, including Australia and Japan, have also banned the use of equipment supplied by Chinese smartphone maker Huawei.

Mr Silvers said if the US moves to ban Tencent in the American market, there will be deep impact on the tech giant's investments and access to capital markets even though the firm's gaming and social media operations may not have widespread US adoption.

This is because the Internetbased company has significantly shifted its focus to become a multisector venture capital operation in the past year.

"This would almost certainly have a significant negative impact on the company's ailing stock price. As the company is also a market bellwether, a ban would hurt investor sentiment in China, Hong Kong, and across Asia," said Mr Silvers.

Shares of Tencent, which is listed in Hong Kong, were down by more than 20 per cent last year as the company was hit by China's freeze on gaming approvals last year and a profit decline – its first in 13 years.

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A screen displaying QR codes for various programmes and services at Tencent's WeChat Open Class Pro conference in Guangzhou last year. WeChat is the fifth-most popular network globally, and countries including Australia and India have blocked the use of the app by their military in the past two years, amid security fears that important data could be leaked. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

Asean, Hong Kong to come under greater US scrutiny: Political watchers

HONG KONG • The tighter scrutiny by the United States on all Chinese technology firms marks the start of a long-drawn-out policy – something that Asean and Hong Kong will have to contend with, political watchers say.

Retired diplomat and chairman of the Middle East Institute Bilahari Kausikan told The Straits Times the pressure on Asean economies will rise as the US moves to ensure they do not act as a back door for China into the US market.

In the January issue of the Asean Focus report, he wrote: "The US will demand that sophisticated economies like Singapore put in place credible and robust safeguards to ensure that sensitive technology does not leak into China. The harsh fact is that the definition of what is 'credible', 'robust', and 'sensitive' will be primarily American."

And Hong Kong will not be spared in the process.

spared in the process.

Mr Zi Yang, a senior analyst at the
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies' China Programme,



DEMAND FOR SAFEGUARDS

The US will demand that sophisticated economies like Singapore put in place credible and robust safeguards to ensure that sensitive technology does not leak into China. The harsh fact is that the definition of what is 'credible', 'robust', and 'sensitive' will be primarily American.

"

MR BILAHARI KAUSIKAN, retired diplomat and chairman of the Middle East Institute, on how the US will protect its technology.

said the trend will mean Chinese tech firms with Hong Kong operations, including those with opaque structures and affiliations, will have to endure tighter scrutiny as the city is sometimes a "transit point" for these China-based companies.

for these China-based companies. Given that Hong Kong does not have a significant manufacturing sector, Mr Kausikan expects greater US scrutiny on trade, transshipments and financing of mergers and acquisitions of third-country companies with technology China needs. This approach "will outlast the Trump administration", he said.

"Ironically, I think the US, like China, will look at Hong Kong more as 'one country' rather than 'two systems'," Mr Kausikan said, referring to the arrangement where China granted the city a "high degree of autonomy" and civic freedoms for 50 years following the British handover in 1997.

Mr Derek Scissors of the American Enterprise Institute said the US has already moved to deal with Chinese tech firms suspected of espionage with the indictment of Chinese intelligence agents accused of stealing technology from the US.

He previously suggested that the US should hit high-profile Chinese companies with financial sanctions, including potential bans on their ability to do business with American companies.

"If the US goes on to pursue global sanctions, Hong Kong will not be allowed to play both sides," he warned, referring to the territory's current balancing act between the two powers.

Hong Kong is now viewed by the US as a separate customs territory from the mainland under the US-Hong Kong Policy Act.

Hong Kong Policy Act.
But, increasingly, there is unease

in Hong Kong that this status, which allows the city to receive controlled US defence articles via a direct commercial sale, for instance, may be under threat.

In November, the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission report convened by the US Congress warned that China's technology-manufacturing strength threatens US national security – allegations China has dismissed as moves to contain its rise.

The commission had proposed that the Commerce Department reassess whether US export control policy for dual-use technology should still consider Hong Kong and the mainland as separate customs areas, given Beijing's continued erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy.

The territory's role was again called into question after Ms Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer and daughter of company founder Ren Zhengfei, was detained by the Canadian authorities on Dec 1 upon the US' request for allegedly breaching US trade sanctions, heightening tensions between the US and China.

The 46-year-old has denied accusations of misleading banks about Huawei's business in Iran by covering up the firm's ties to Skycom Tech, a Hong Kong company operating in Iran.

Claire Huang

Airbus loses to Boeing in annual jet order race

LONDON • Airbus abandoned a five-year winning streak in the race for jetliner orders last year, slumping to its lowest share of the US\$150 billion (S\$203 billion) jet market in six years but narrowing a gap with US rival Boeing in plane deliveries.

The European firm said it had won 747 net orders, down 33 per cent from 2017 despite a hefty contribution from the Canadian A220 jet which it took over in July. Boeing won the order race for the first time since 2012 with 893 orders.

Airbus delivered 800 jets, up 11 per cent, including 20 of the small A220 model, leaving Boeing as the world's largest planemaker by manufacturing volume for a seventh straight year. Although Boeing missed its delivery target and Airbus had previously lowered its goal due to strains on the industry's global supply chain, strong demand for passenger jets expanded total deliveries by 8 per cent, the fastest pace in six years.

Still, investors are watching for signs that a longer-than-usual aerospace cycle is fraying amid concerns over key markets like China, although an order slow-down had been expected as manufacturers digest record production backlogs.

Planemaking chief Guillaume Faury said Airbus had achieved a "healthy order intake", with waiting lists for many new jets stretching up to seven years.

Insiders say its quest for new business has, however, been overshadowed in the past year by industrial problems, management changes and morale problems coinciding with a corruption probe. It also faced a challenging annual comparison after its former sales chief retired with a swan song deal in 2017 for over 400 jets that analysts said had anticipated future demand.

A resurgent Boeing has, meanwhile, been cashing in on greater availability and declining costs for its flagship 787 Dreamliner, while struggling to regain lost ground in the lucrative segment for large narrow-body jets above 200 seats.

Highlighting the pressure Airbus has been facing in the market for high-margin wide-body jets like the 787, the firm was outsold three to one by Boeing for a second year.

The order figures underscore Airbus' decision to take over the lightweight but loss-making Bombardier CSeries aircraft, generating 135 orders worth US\$12 billion at list prices. Without that boost, Airbus took just 41 per cent of the core market in which it competes with Boeing, the lowest since 2009.

Mr Faury rejected the comparison, telling reporters the A220 was now "an integral part of the Airbus product range". He said Airbus had turned the corner after supplier problems sparked an end-year race to match the 800-unit delivery target.

Airbus reached a targeted production rate of 10 aircraft a month for its wide-body A350, company officials said. Among a handful of cancellations, Airbus officially recognised in its books the loss in 2014 of an order for 10 A380 superjumbos from Hong Kong Airlines, following negotiations.

The world's largest airliner is mostly dependent on Dubai's Emirates Airlines as Airbus slows output in the hope of a future upturn. Some analysts say the record backlogs of Airbus and Boeing still include dozens of other jets unlikely to be delivered, but both firms insist they only post valid contracts. "I think we are in a healthy situation to prepare the next couple of years," Mr Faury said. REUTERS

747

Number of net orders Airbus won last year.

893

Number of net orders Boeing won

Reserve price raised in People's Park Centre collective sale bid

\$1.35b tag reflects a 45% premium over valuation for mixed-use property

Grace Leong

Business Correspondent

One of Singapore's biggest and most keenly watched mixed-use collective sales in this cycle - People's Park Centre - has raised its reserve price from \$1.3 billion to \$1.35 billion and agreed on the method of apportionment for its first collective sale attempt.

A majority of those who attended the extraordinary general meeting on Wednesday passed the resolutions for the changes.

"We have one year from Jan 9, 2019 to get the 80 per cent mandate. But our target is to get the mandate within four months. If we are able to do so, the tender will be launched by the middle of the year," the spokesman for the collective sale committee, Mr Lee Chin Chee, told The Straits Times yesterday.

The new reserve price represents a 45 per cent premium over valuation, up from a 41 per cent premium, he said. "The method of apportionment is structured as such: 80 per cent is based on the valuation of the units, 10 per cent on the area of the units, and 10 per cent on share value," he added.

Apartment owners now stand to get between \$1.885 million and \$2.683 million; office owners, between \$432,000 and \$4.431 million; and shop owners, from \$267,000 to \$16.4 million. The owner of the carpark stands to get \$56.7 million, Mr Lee said.

Built in 1970, People's Park Centre sits on a 96,000 sq ft site, with a gross floor area of about 820,000 sq ft. It is zoned commercial under the current masterplan. The development, which has 120 apartments, 256 offices, 324 shops and a carpark, has more than 50 years

left on its lease. But some owners have objected to the sale. "Only 62 shop units had their sales proceeds adjusted higher by a total of \$9 million. The other 639 units remained unchanged. That is the main (source of) disgruntlement among those objecting. Some also think the reserve

price is too low," Mr Lee added. While mixed-use properties con-



Built in 1970, People's Park Centre sits on a 96,000 sq ft site, with a gross floor area of about 820,000 sq ft. It is zoned commercial under the current masterplan. The development, which has 120 apartments, 256 offices, 324 shops and a carpark, has more than 50 years left on its lease. ST FILE PHOTO

TARGETING EARLY TENDER

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MR LEE CHIN CHEE, spokesman for the

tinue to be popular, there is a growing list of commercial buildings which had collective sale tenders that closed last year but remained unsold. They include Jalan Besar Plaza and Verdun House.

After last year's July 6 property cooling measures, a total of 35 collective sale tenders - including relaunches – have closed without a sale. Of these, 31 are residential projects, two are mixed-use and two are commercial projects. The 35 tenders have a combined value of nearly \$8.8 billion, according to data from Colliers International.

"We expect developers to remain cautious and selective in landbanking activities. By the middle of this year, with the relatively healthy take-up since the curbs, and assuming a benign economic outlook, developers could be more active in landbanking again," said Ms Tricia Song, Colliers' head of research for Singapore.

JLL senior consultant Karamjit Singh believes there are still some pockets of opportunity in commercial rather than residential collective sales. "There is still hot demand for hotel use. Interest for residential sites will be good in locations that are under-supplied,"

Ms Ong Choon Fah of Edmund Tie & Company noted that "like

Golden Mile Complex, People's Park Centre was built during the early stages of nation building, so the sites hold very fond memories for a lot of people".

She added: "With commercial

rents rising, there will be interest. You don't often get locations like Chinatown for collective sale.'

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Buyer keen to acquire Mercure, Novotel hotels for \$950m

Property developer Oxley Holdings has accepted a letter of intent for the purchase of its Mercure and Novotel hotels in Stevens Road for \$950 million.

It was not announced who the buyer was.

The letter of intent is non-binding and is subject to the parties entering into a definitive sale and purchase agreement, Oxley said in an announcement late yesterday evening.

The consideration was agreed on a "willing buyer-willing seller" basis, taking into account the prevailing market conditions.

Under the terms of the letter of intent, upon receipt of the sum of \$9.5 million as a non-refundable deposit, the buyer will be entitled to carry out due diligence during the period until April 15 this year.

The buyer will then pay a sum of \$38 million on Feb 28, and a further sum of \$47.5 million on the signing date of the definitive sale and purchase agreement or April 15, whichever is earlier.

The two hotels, which opened in 2017, were Oxley's maiden venture into the hospitality business.

Strategically located near the Scotts Road and Orchard Road shopping belts, Novotel Singapore on Stevens has 254 rooms, a 400-seat ballroom, meeting facilities, food and beverage outlets, a fitness centre and a swimming pool. Mercure Singapore on Stevens has

Strategically located near the Scotts Road and **Orchard Road shopping** belts, Novotel Singapore on Stevens has 254 rooms... Mercure Singapore on Stevens has 518 rooms.



Hotel London Mayfair will be renamed The Biltmore, Mayfair following a \$86.2 million facelift. It will open in the first half of this year as part of Hilton's luxury collection brand LXR, following a management franchise agreement. PHOTO: M&C

The Millennium

M&C to reopen London hotel with new name, manager

Aw Cheng Wei

The Singapore-owned Millennium Hotel London Mayfair is soon to reopen with a new name and a new manager, following a £50 million (S\$86.2 million) renovation.

The Biltmore, Mayfair as it will be known, will have 257 guest rooms and 51 suites, a spokesman for the hotel said on Tuesday.

The facelift will "reflect the property's origin as a sophisticated and elegant London private residence", he added.

The Biltmore, Mayfair, which is near Hyde Park, will open in the first half of this year as part of Hilton's luxury collection brand

LXR, following a management franchise agreement between Hilton and owner Millennium and Copthorne Hotels (M&C).

Hilton will manage the hotel under a 10-year agreement with M&C, a London-listed unit of Singapore property giant City Developments, having the option of managing it under Hilton's LXR

Number of suites that The Biltmore, Mayfair will have. brand after five years.

The refurbishment started in November 2017 and resulted in the hotel closing at the start of last July.

Besides the lavish lodgings, the hotel will have restaurants, an alfresco terrace, a cocktail bar, a gym and a 500 sq m ballroom.

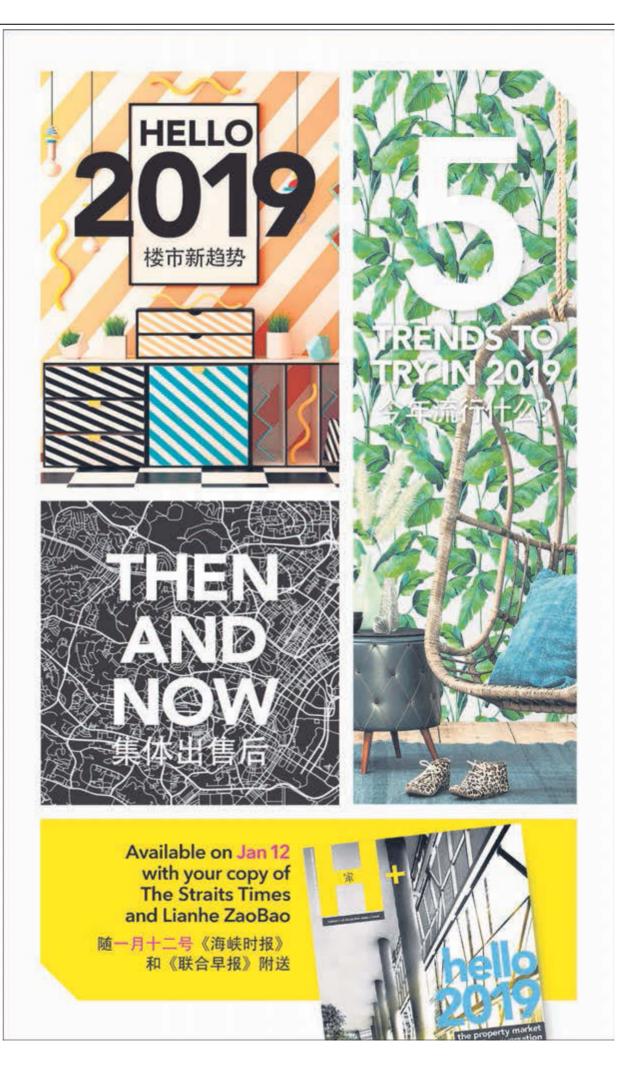
M&C chairman Kwek Leng Beng said The Biltmore, Mayfair is part of the group's repositioning of the former Millennium Hotel London Mayfair as a new five-star deluxe hotel. M&C said it is "familiar with Hilton", having partnered it on several hotel management contracts, including in Seoul, Bangkok and New York.

Mr Patrick Fitzgibbon, a senior vice-president at Hilton, said: "The (hotel's) unique craftsmanship and historic surroundings... will make for a truly memorable stay."

LXR seeks to ensure personalised attention and luxurious yet locally immersive experiences for guests. Last year, the collection welcomed its maiden hotel in Dubai, the 234-room Habtoor Palace.

The Biltmore, Mayfair will be the first LXR hotel in Europe.

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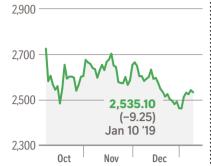


23,000

Hang Seng 29,000 27,000 25,000 Jan 10 '19

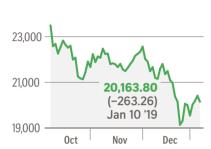
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Shanghai Comp

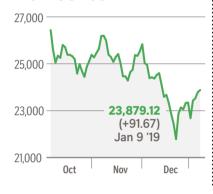


Nikkei 225

25,000



Dow Jones



BullsAndBears

Property, banking stocks push STI higher

Reits also fare well as local market defies gloom surrounding **US-China trade talks**

Lynette Tan

The modest outcome of the US-China trade talks had the expected impact on many regional markets yesterday, but local shares defied the gloom to end higher.

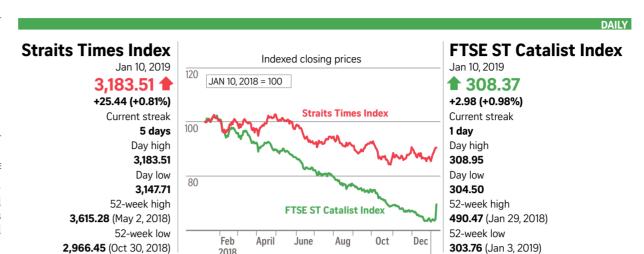
The Straits Times Index (STI) rose 0.81 per cent or 25.44 points to 3,183.51, with gainers thumping decliners 229 to 146 on turnover of 1.3 billion shares worth \$1.11 billion.

Property and banking stocks did much of the heavy lifting. Developers CapitaLand added 2.51 per cent to \$3.27 while City Developments put on 1.64 per cent to \$8.70.

On the banking front, DBS gained 0.83 per cent to \$24.44 and United Overseas Bank rose almost 1 per cent to \$25.80, but OCBC was the exception, reversing the morning's gains to close unchanged at \$11.61.

The banks have trended in the black over the past month and analysts expect them to maintain their showing against a backdrop of slower global growth this year.

CGS-CIMB analysts Andrea Choong and Lim Siew Khee are remaining overweight on the sector "on account of comfortable capitalisation and further upside of net interest margins". OCBC remains their top pick, "due to continued net interest margin upside alongside attractive valuations".





CGS-CIMB said OCBC trades at 1.1 times its current year market-tobook ratio, below the long-term mean of 1.4 times.

Real estate investment trusts (Reits) also fared well yesterday, with most counters heading north following the release of minutes from the latest United States Federal Reserve meeting. These suggested that interest rates could be placed on hold until there is more clarity on the global growth risks that

could affect the economy.

LAST SALE

Sabana Reit gained 2.5 per cent to 41 cents while ESR Reit was up 0.94 per cent to 53.5 cents. Ascott Reit also rose, up 0.91 per cent to \$1.11, partly on news that it sold Ascott Raffles Place Singapore for \$353.3 million to private investor Cheong Sim Lam.

Otherwise, there was not much new to cheer about as investors took stock of the US-China trade talks.

DBS Group Research analysts said that while the meeting was a first step towards easing tensions, there are challenges ahead.

"US demands for verification and enforceable targets on intellectual property rights, transfer of technologies and non-tariff barriers may not be that easily addressed," the DBS analysts wrote.

"This sets up room for volatility in the lead-up to the March 1 deadline when negotiations on these issues need to be concluded."

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Global ETFs, ETPs draw 2nd-highest net inflow in December

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and exchange-traded products (ETPs) attracted the secondhighest net inflow on record globally, taking in US\$76.24 billion (S\$103 billion) last month despite turmoil in developed markets, independent research and consultancy firm ETFGI said yesterday.

Last month's inflow was beaten by January last year, which saw inflows of US\$105.7 billion. For last year, global ETFs and ETPs saw inflows of US\$516 billion, 26.7 per cent less than the US\$654 billion in 2017.

According to the consultancy's December 2018 Global ETF and ETP industry landscape insights report, assets invested in global ETFs and ETPs fell 5.28 per cent to US\$4.79 trillion at the end of last month from US\$5.06 trillion at the end of November.

While the record US\$5.26 trillion for assets invested in ETFs and ETPs in September last year marked an 8.6 per cent increase over 2017, assets invested in the global industry ended down 0.6 per cent for last year.

The consultancy said that substantial inflows during December could be attributed to the top 20 ETFs (by net new assets), which collectively gathered US\$40.79 billion. The iShares 1-3 Year Treasury Bond ETF (SHY US) attracted US\$3.36 billion, the largest net inflow last month.

At the end of last month, the global ETF/ETP industry had 7,657 ETFs/ETPs, with 14,993 listings, assets of US\$4.79 trillion from 401 providers listed on 71 exchanges in 57 countries.

Straits Times Index stocks

HIGH	LOW	COMPANY	TRADED SALE	+OR-	'000	YIELD%	P/BV
286 200 388 238 1360 251 3128 968 141 39 42 744 4105 892 1404 585 850 1184 292 370 365 945 3037 938 2965 331 166	245 161 298 195 780 196 2265 767 85.5 22.3 588 5580 3155 2766 567 1036 455 672 914 231 319 243 283 57.5 2380 297 84	Ascendas Reit CapitaCom Trust CapitaLand CapitaMall Trust CityDev ComfortDelGro DBS Grp DairyFarm USD Genting Sing Golden Agri-Res HPH Trust USD HongkongLand US JMH USD JSH USD Jardine C&C Keppel Corp OCBC Bank SATS SGX SIA SPH ST Engineering Sembcorp Ind Singtel ThaiBev UOB UOL Venture Corp Wilmar Intl YZJ Shipbldg SGD	181 327 233 870 2233 870 220 2444 US925 104 26 US25.5 US6869 US3808 3652 622 1161 494 494 7733 965 249 360 269 304 67.5 cd 2580 645	+2 +1 +8 -4 +14 +3 +20 -6 +1 unch +10 -48 +25 +25 +4 unch +4 +4 +4 +5 +7 +25 +5 -1 6 +1	15599 4295 11032 17644 3668 8754 3889 156 23527 13461 8027 2015 2409 833 2476 55894 1497 1621 2171 5635 5240 29497 57011 2988 1593 1170 01088 23886	6 4.8 3.7 4.8 2.1 4.7 5.23 3.4 3.1 10.3 2.9 2.3 3.1 3.5 4.1 4.1 5.2 4.2 4.2 1.9 6.7 0.9 3.9 3.1 3.5	1.3 1 0.7 1.1 0.7 1.1 0.9 1.4 1.6 0.6 0.4 0.3 0.7 0.7 0.4 1.8 1.2 3.4 8.3 8.3 1.2 5.3 7.7 1.7 3.3 1.9 9.9 1.9 9.9 1.9 9.9 1.9 9.9 1.9 9.9 9

FTSE ST Large & Mid-Cap Index stocks

52. HIGH	-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CURRENCY LAST TRADED SALE	+OR-	'VOL '000	GROSS YIELD%
286	245	Ascendas Reit	267	+2	15599	6
127	105	Ascott Reit		+1	9593	6.4
77	59	Bumitama Agri		+2	682	1.1
185	143	CDL HTrust		unch	1854	-
200 388	161 298	CapitaCom Trust		+1 +8	4295 11032	4.8 3.7
238	298 195	CapitaLand CapitaMall Trust		+8 -4	17644	3.7 4.8
169	133	CapitaR China Tr		unch	814	7.2
1360	780	CityDev		+14	3668	2.1
251	196	ComfortDelGro	220	+3	8754	4.7
3128	2265	DBS Grp		+20	3889	5.9
968	767	DairyFarm USD		-6	156	2.3
78 107	59 150	Far East HTrust		+1.5	588 1374	- 41
197 236	211	First Resources Frasers Cpt Tr		+5 +2	1350	4.1 5.3
118	101	Frasers L&I Tr		+1	2708	6.5
141	85.5	Genting Sing		+1	23527	3.4
39	22.5	Golden Agri-Res		+1	13461	3.1
234	167	GuocoLand Ltd		+5	514	3.8
_42	_23	HPH Trust USD		unch	8027	10.3
744	588	HongkongLand USI		+10	2015	2.9
6974 4149	5580 3155	JMH USD JSH USD		-48 +25	240 209	2.3 0.8
4105	2766	Jardine C&C		+25	833	3.1
59	44.5	Kep Infra Tr		+0.5	5056	7.4
892	567	Keppel Corp		+4	2476	3.5
133	108	Keppel Reit		unch	2017	4.9
215	151	M1		unch	2124	5.5
273	170	Man Oriental USD		-1	83	1.6
172	152	Mapletree Com Tr		-2 +1	4916	5.3
213 138	184 118	Mapletree Ind Tr Mapletree Log Tr		+1	2879 14472	6 5.7
128	107	Mapletree NAC Tr	118	+1	5573	6.3
83.5	73	NetLink NBN Tr		-0.5	5032	-
1404	1036	OCBC Bank		unch	5894	3.2
215	136	OUE		+1	262	2
92.5	64.5	OUE HTrust		+0.5	484	-
250 60.8	157 28	Olam Intl		unch +1	241 3330	4.3 5.1
306	256	Oxley ParkwayLife Reit		+3	242	4.9
121	98	Raffles Medical		+1	1188	2
585	455	SATS		+4	1497	3.6
850	672	SGX	733	unch	1621	4.1
1184	914	SIA		+14	2171	4.1
337	220	SIA Engineering		+3	923	5.2
292 107	231 98	SPH SPHREIT		+4 unch	5635 2350	5.2 5.4
370	319	ST Engineering		+4	5240	4.2
360	243	Sembcorp Ind		+5	2846	1.9
281	149	Sembcorp Marine	161	-1	4981	1.2
58	39	Silverlake Axis		unch	4499	7.3
147	88.5	SingPost		unch	2592	3.7
365	283	Singtel		+7	29497	6.7
299 78	158 63.5	StarHub StarhillGbl Reit		+3 +0.5	2036 591	9 6.6
225	163	Suntec Reit		unch	4147	5.4
94.5	57.5	ThaiBev		+2.5	57011	0.9
10.2	3.7	Thomson Medical	8	unch	11239	-
3037	2380	UOB		+25	2988	3.9
938	591	UOL		+5	1593	2.7
2965	1320	Venture Corp		-1	1170	4
331 244	297 183	Wilmar Intl Wing Tai		+6 unch	10188 426	3.1 4.1
166	84	YZJ Shipbldg SGD		+1	23886	3.5
191	116	Yanlord Land		-1	846	5.3

FTSE ST Small-Cap Index stocks

145	129	AIMSAMP Cap Reit	136	-1	135	7.6	1
71	48	Accordia Golf Tr		unch	188	7.3	0.6
90.5	74	Ascendas-hTrust		+1	859	-	0.8
119	99	Ascendas-iTrust		unch	693	5.8	1.2
59.5	12.2	Asian Pay TV Tr		-0.1	1235	48.9	0.2
67	48	Banyan Tree		unch	605	1.7	0.8
279	115	Best World		+4	1913	1.5	9.5
86.5	76	Boustead		unch	11	3.8	1.2
126	79.5	BreadTalk		+1.5	128	8	2.3
658	521	Bukit Sembawang		+1	94	3.2	1.2
88.5	65.5	Cache Log Trust		+2	3385	10	1
56.5	39.5	Centurion		-0.5	100	6.2	0.7
169	104	China Aviation		unch	963	4.1	0.9
47.5	29.5	China Everbright		unch	244	1.5	0.6
165	90.5	China Sunsine		+4	1762	2.3	1.5
107	64	Chip Eng Seng		+1	3192	5.8	0.5
53.5	31.5	Cosco		+0.5	9498	-	1.5
700	302	Delong		-9	15	-	0.6
28	17.5	Duty Free Intl	20.5 cd	+1.3	242	9	1.3
79	67.5	EC World Reit		unch	417	8.6	0.8
59.5	47	ESR-REIT		+0.5	3830	7.2	0.9
142	92	First Reit		+2	476	8.2	1
155	134	Frasers Com Tr		+1	936	6.8	0.9
82.5	66.5	Frasers HTrust		unch	387	-	0.9
28	16.4	Geo Energy Res	19.1	+0.4	8742	5.2	1.1
91	70.5	HRnetGroup	79.5	unch	127	2.9	2.4
70	52	Health Mgt Intl	. 55	unch	16	0.6	5.3
279	73	Hi-P Intl	90	-2.5	4021	27.8	1.4
283	252	Hong Leong Fin	259	unch	12	5	0.6
82.5	71	IREIT Global	. 74	unch	29	8	1
42	18.3	Indofood Agri	20.5	+0.6	806	-	0.2
79.5	43	Japfa	. 77	+0.5	3021	0.6	1.4
84.5	49	KSH	51.5	+1	196	4.3	0.9
86.9	53	Kep-KBS Reit USD		-1	1808	-	0.6
148	128	Keppel DC Reit	138	unch	885	5.2	1.4
188	132	Keppel T&T	185	unch	497	1.9	1.2
11.9	7	KrisEnergy	8.2	unch	8164	-	1
79.5	44.5	Lian Beng	. 48	+0.5	545	4.7	0.4
42.5	18	Lippo Malls Tr		unch	1387	17.2	0.7
55	30	MM2 Asia		unch	609	-	1.8
98.5	69.5	ManulifeReit USD		-1.5	350	6.8	0.7
121	95	Metro		unch	245	5	0.6
32	5	Noble		susp	-	-	- :
66.9	45	OUE Com Reit		+0.5	2018	9.7	0.5
68	54	PEC		-	-	3.5	0.6
46	17	POSH		+0.3	270	-	0.6
65.5	44.5	Q&M Dental		unch	112	3.2	3.6
117	55.5	QAF Ltd	60	unch	43	8.3	0.7
84	70	RHT HealthTrust		-0.5	1525	6.2	1 :
124	96	Riverstone		-1	125	2.1	3.6
55	22	SIIC Environment		+0.5	472	-	0.5
45	38	Sabana Reit		+1	547	8.1	0.8
119	90	Sheng Siong		-3	911	3.1	6
25.5	12	Sino Grandness		+0.3	338	-	0.2
72	56	SoilbuildBizReit		+1	965	9.6	0.9
129	80.5	Tianjin ZX USD		-0.5	40	17	0.7
50 126	32.5	Tuan Sing		+0.5	1520	1.7	0.4
136	54	UMS		-0.5	2826	8.4	1.4
112	58.5	Valuetronics		-1.5	2597	6.7	155.7
17.8 54	8.3	Ying Li Intl		+0.1	3706 2616	0.7	0.3
54	24 16.1	Yoma Strategic		+0.5	2616	0.7	0.9
37.5	16.1	Yongnam	. 19	+0.2	636	-	0.4

Price and volume movers

0.6

0.5

	VOL	CLOSE(\$)	CHANGE	+/-
Pan Asian	210.0	0.019	+0.003	+18.75
GYP Properties	100.0	0.150	-0.024	-13.79
Transcorp	297.1	0.009	-0.006	-40.00
BH Global	10.0	0.099	+0.019	+23.75
AA	11,113.0	0.023	+0.004	+21.05
SP Corp	13.9	0.520	+0.070	+15.56
Karin Tech	204.8	0.330	+0.020	+6.45
Aspial	457.0	0.210	-0.010	-4.55
Singapore-eDev	128.1	0.040	+0.006	+17.65
Hotel Royal	8.4	3.080	+0.270	+9.6

ETFs

52-V High	Veek Low	Counter	Last Sale	+/-	Vol ('000)	Last Q Buy	uote Sel
High 116.9 99 1176 12953 1453 1089 1080 1016 108.4 375 100.6 88.8 148.2 103.5 130 366 4256	110 82.5 626 11025 1330 970 1002 467 94.4 302 98.8 76.3 104.7 99 93.2 300 3373	ABF SG Bond ETF CIMB APAC Div US\$ CIMBASEAN 40 US\$ GLD US\$ IS ASIA HYG \$\frac{1}{2}\$ IS ASIA HYG US\$ IS ASIA BYD US\$ IS ASIA BYD US\$ IS MSINDIA US\$ Lion-Phillip S-REIT Nikko AM STI ETF Nikko AM SGD IGBOND ETF Nikko AM STC A REIT US\$ Nikko AM-STC A REIT US\$ Nikko AM-STC ASIA REIT PHIL SING INC. PhII Ap Div Reit US\$ STIETF XT ASX200 US\$	112.5 US86.8 US982 US12242 1343 US993 US1021 US824 100.4 325 100 US80.3 111.8 103.5 US97.6 323.1	+/ +4.3 +10 +121 - +4 +3 +1 +0.2 +4 +0.40.1 +0.8 - +2.7		112.5 86.4 981 12238 1335 990 1021 822 100.1 324 99.6 82.6 111.7 103.3 98.4 322.9	113 87.2 986 1224 1344 993 100.4 326 100.8 32.9 111.9 98.8 323.
685.5 2208 8530	375.1 1470 6252	XT MSBrazil US\$ XT MSCHINA US\$ XT MSKorea US\$	US1610	- +132 -	-	507.1 - -	513.6
220.4 645 3113 5292	154.9 530 2532 4210	XT MSPHILS US\$XT MSPacXJp US\$XT MSPacXJp US\$XT MSTaiwan US\$XT S&P500 US\$XT S&P500 US\$	US189.5 US551 US2554 US4679	+2 - - +54	2 - -	184 568 2447 -	19 ¹ 570
4044	2850	XT Vietnam US\$	US2963	+63	0	2963	

Gainers				Losers			
		BYC	ENTS			BYC	ENTS
	CLOSE	UP	%		CLOSE	DOWN	%
JSH USD	3808 308 3652 2580 2444 2536 870 965 685 690	33.8 27.0 25.0 25.0 20.0 16.0 14.0 13.5 10.0	0.7 9.6 0.7 1.0 0.8 0.6 1.6 1.5 1.5	JMH USD	6869 1176 596 925 161 105 90.5 233 88 1062	-64.9 -14.0 -9.0 -8.1 -7.0 -5.0 -4.5 -4.0 -3.8	-0.7 -1.2 -1.5 -0.6 -4.2 -4.5 -4.7 -1.7 -4.3 -2.0
	BY	PERCEN	TAGE		В	YPERCEN	TAGE
	CLOSE	%	UP		CLOSE	% I	DOWN
Disa	0.4 0.5 9.9 2.3 0.6 1.9 4 3.4	33.3 33.3 25.0 23.8 21.1 20.0 18.8 17.6 17.2 16.5	0.1 0.1 0.1 1.9 0.4 0.1 0.3 0.6 0.5	Transcorp	0.9 0.2 0.4 0.5 5 0.6 15 0.7 0.7	-40.0 -33.3 -20.0 -16.7 -16.7 -14.3 -13.8 -12.5 -12.5 -10.5	-0.6 -0.1 -0.1 -0.1 -1.0 -0.1 -2.4 -0.1 -0.1

Most active

VOLUME	VALUE (\$)
ThaiBev	DBS Grp 94,602,748 Singtel 88,843,638
Singtel 29,497,800 Rex Intl 27,166,200 YZJShipbldg SGD 23,886,400	UOB
Genting Sing	CapitaMall Trust
CapitaMall Trust 17,644,000 Ascendas Reit 15,599,800 Mapletree Log Tr 14,472,100	CapitaLand
Market volume 1,295,967,000	Marketvalue 1,057,443,000

Bonds

Company	Last Sale	+or-	(000) ('000)
CapMallTrb3.08%21022	101.8	unch	2
CityDev NCCPS	107	-	-
DBS Bk 4.7% NCPS	10540	+40	0
FPTrea 3.65%n220522	101	-0.8	10
Hyflux 6% CPS	6537	susp	-
UE Pref	190	-	-

Investors urged to gear up for market volatility

But this gives them opportunities to rebalance portfolios and take up long-term positions, says DBS

> Investors should brace themselves for a tug of war between bulls and bears that will result in high volatility for financial markets this year, said DBS Bank chief investment officer Hou Wey Fook.

Mr Hou made the forecast when he spoke to DBS Private Bank clients at a market outlook lunch vesterday, although he noted that equities were not facing the start of a bear market yet.

DBS chief executive Piyush Gupta also noted that such volatility offers investors opportunities to rebalance their portfolios and take up long-term positions.

Given the environment, DBS has weighted equities as "neutral" for this quarter, with bonds as "underweight", but it is "overweight" on alternative investments and cash.

Mr Hou said the bank is "overweight" on United States shares this quarter, favouring them over other equities on "the superiority of earnings by US companies, which are unparalleled in the rest of the world".

Asia ex-Japan equities are also "overweight", with Mr Hou noting: "Valuations are very compelling; they are actually at historical lows vis-a-vis global peers.'

DBS is "neutral" on Japan itself and "underweight" on Europe.

Mr Gupta noted that the global economy was undergoing a slowdown but said it was part of a "normal cyclical slowdown that has been anticipated". He added that while the US Federal Reserve has said it will be "patient" with rate hikes, he expects one or two of them, noting: "There's good momentum in the economy, good job growth; they have the capacity to do rate hikes."

DBS expects growth momentum in the US to stay strong at 2.5 per cent this year, with inflation to edge up to 2.5 per cent, on the back of a full-employment economy.

Growth in Japan is expected to remain steady at 1 per cent, and inflation at 1.1 per cent.

Mr Hou said Asia is on a steady growth path despite an expected slowdown in China. DBS has Chinese growth at 6.2 per cent and inflation at 2.3 per cent for 2019.

Meanwhile, Singapore can expect growth of between 2.5 per cent and 3 per cent this year, said Mr Gupta. This is despite a slowdown in the property market due to last year's cooling measures, which shrank the bank's property loan segment by between 40 per cent and 50 per cent as opposed to the 20 per cent



DBS chief investment officer Hou Wey Fook says the bank is "overweight" on US shares this quarter.

to 25 per cent initially anticipated. Mr Hou was not as positive on Europe, which is blighted by rising populism and uncertainty over Brexit.

Germany, seen as a driver of euro zone growth, is also experiencing a slowdown, due in part to fewer exports to China, Mr Gupta said.

Europe is expected to grow 1.8 per cent this year, with inflation expected at a muted 1.4 per cent.

While the macroeconomic outlook is generally favourable, there are black swans out there for investors to keep a lookout for.

These include the possibility of a full-blown trade war, a potential impeachment of US President Donald Trump, a chaotic political landscape in Europe and an inflation upside surprise, which might send the Fed into further rate hikes.

Mr Hou also addressed the bank's investment themes for this year. These include the healthcare sector, seeking winners in the digital economy, and riding athleticleisure consumer trends.

Workers sewing

shoes at a factory in

Qingdao in

China's

Shandong province. China's

index rose

on year in

December, compared with a

producer price

0.9 per cent year



YTL PowerSeraya

The chief executive officer of YTL PowerSeraya, Mr Chan Swee Huat, retires on Jan 15 and will be succeeded by the energy producer's former CEO John Ng. Mr Chan took over the helm from Mr Ng in

October 2013. Mr Ng was the CEO of YTL PowerSeraya from 2009 to 2013. He steered the growth of the company to maintain its strong success, before taking on a similar role at Singapore LNG, YTL PowerSeraya said in a statement yesterday.

Mr Ng has over 35 years of experience in Singapore's energy sector. He also chairs the Workplace Safety and Health Council and is vice-president of the Singapore National Employers Federation.

YTL PowerSeraya chairman Francis Yeoh Sock Ping said: "(Chan) Swee Huat is a proven leader who has delivered stable growth in his tenure, and we credit this to his relentless dedication to our people and customers. John has a deep understanding and experience of our business and the industry... We are confident that John is well suited to lead YTL PowerSeraya in this increasingly competitive landscape to drive innovation and further strengthen our position as an integrated energy player in Singapore."

Mr Chan will be an adviser to YTL PowerSeraya's parent YTL Power International.

UOB

United Overseas Bank has renewed its regional bancassurance arrangement with Prudential for 15 years. Prudential will pay the bank a fee of \$1.15 billion over this period.

The new pact extends the original alliance, which commenced in 2010, to 2034, and will include Vietnam as a fifth market.

Under the arrangement, UOB will distribute Prudential's life insurance products to its consumer banking customer base in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, deputy chairman and group chief executive officer of UOB, said the renewed agreement reflects the long-term approach and success of this partnership.

Group chief executive of Prudential Mike Wells said: "We have built a highly effective bancassurance partnership with our colleagues at UOB that has driven double-digit annual sales and new business profit growth since 2010... We believe there is a significant opportunity for future growth in South-east Asia and the renewal reflects our commitment to using our capabilities to benefit our customers and shareholders."



2.7 per cent rise the previous month. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

China's factory-gate inflation slows as trade war rumbles on

BEIJING • The cost of producing goods in China's factories slowed sharply last month, a sign that demand remains weak as the US trade war drags on, while consumer inflation also flagged, official data showed yesterday.

The producer price index (PPI) an important barometer of the industrial sector that measures the cost of goods at the factory gate rose 0.9 per cent year on year in December, compared with a 2.7 per cent rise the previous month.

The reading marked the lowest growth since September 2016, and fell short of forecasts in a Bloomberg News survey.

A slowdown in factory-gate inflation reflects sluggish demand, while a turn to deflation could dent corporate profits.

It "may enter negative territory very soon given the negative sequential growth it already recorded",

Goldman Sachs economists forecast. "This disinflation is reflected already in the industrial profit data, which entered negative territory," they wrote in a research note.

The consumer price index (CPI) a key measure of retail inflation rose 1.9 per cent, compared with 2.2 per cent in November.

"Both readings fell short of market forecasts," said Nomura econo-

WORRYING SIGN

Rapidly falling inflation, especially factory-gate PPI inflation, is further evidence that

China's economy is slowing at a worrying pace.

NOMURA ECONOMIST LUTING

mist Lu Ting. "Rapidly falling inflation, especially factory-gate PPI inflation, is further evidence that China's economy is slowing at a worrying pace. Slumping PPI inflation suggests corporate earnings will almost surely continue to fall in coming months." Mr Lu said the PPI was expected to turn negative, which would put "further downward pressure on China's growth".

The weak figures come as China's trade war with the United States starts to bite and economic growth slows, with data last week showing the manufacturing sector contracted in December for the first time in more than two years.

There are hopes for a breakthrough in the trade row, with a US negotiating team leaving Beijing on Wednesday after three days of talks that China said had "laid the foundation" to resolve concerns held by both sides. REUTERS

MSCI INDICES

Interbank currency rates

Currencies	Ag Bid	ainstS\$ Offer	Agai Bid	nstUS\$ Offer
S\$/US\$toone unit of foreign currency:				
Australian dollar	0.9698	0.9707	0.7175	0.7180
Canadian dollar	1.0206	1.0213	0.7554	0.7551
Euro	1.5610	1.5617	1.1549	1.1551
NZ dollar	0.9169	0.9173	0.6784	0.6785
Sterling pound	1.7248	1.7258	1.2761	1.2765
US dollar	1.3516	1.3520	-	-
S\$/US\$ to 100 units of foreign currency:				
Chinese renminbi	19.9069	19.9169	14.7284	14.7314
Danish kroner	20.9093	20.9188	15.4701	15.4725
Hong Kong dollar	17.24	1725	12.7572	12.7580
Indian Rupee	1.92	1.92	1.4174	1.4179
Indonesia rupiah	0.0096	0.0096	0.0071	0.0071
Japaneseyen	1.2525	12532	0.9267	0.9270
Koreanwon	0.1206	0.1209	0.0893	0.0894
Malaysian ringgit	32.95	33.00	24.3784	24.4081
New Taiwan dollar	4.3892	4.3919	32474	32484
Norwegian krone	15.9441	15.9583	11.7965	11.8034
Philippine peso	2.5895	2.5908	1.9159	1.9163
Saudiriyal	36.0302	36.0466	26.6574	26.6617
Swedish krona	15.2164	15.2278	11.2581	11.2632
Swissfranc	138.7110	138.7948	102.6273	102.6589
ThaiBaht	4.2304	4.2329	3.1299	3.1309

Government securities

GOVERNM	IENT BONDS					Jan 10
Period	Issue code	Coupon rate (%)	Maturity	Close Bid	Da High	ay's Low
2-Year	NY05100N	3.250%	01-Sep-20	102.17	0.00	0.00
5-Year	NX13100H	2.750%	01-Jul-23	103.25	103.32	103.28
10-Year	NX18100A	2.625%	01-May-28	103.35	103.35	103.20
15-Year	NZ13100V	3.375%	01-Sep-33	111.05	111.15	111.15
20-Year	NZ16100X	2.250%	01-Aug-36	96.08	96.28	96.28
30-Year	NA16100H	2.750%	01-Mar-46	101.82	102.37	101.95
Note: Based	on latest issue			Source: Mone	tary Authority o	f Singapore

1487.4 World Preliminar 1037.8 0.9 Europe Preliminary 0.2 955.5 Belgium Preliminary 0.9 2.8 1882.7 Canada Preliminary 0.9 1.9 France Preliminary 1745.3 0.8 875.7 0.9 Germany Preliminary 2.1 7.2 7168.5 0.2 Ireland Preliminary 186.5 0.2 0.6 Israel Preliminary 243.4 650.8 0.7 Italy Preliminary Japan 1.2 2.9 2.5 575.1 -0.1 1478.8 0.8 Netherlands Preliminary New Zealand 136.4 2.0 Norway Preliminary 0.4 1342.7 0.5 83.3 Portugal Preliminary 1643.0 1.1 3.0 Singapore Singapore Free 353.3 1.1 3.0



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YEOW KAH WHAY

Age: 95

passed away peacefully on 10 January 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Husband: Chan Khiang Heng (Deceased)

Sons: Chang Yau Chan Bak Seng Chan Buck Wong Chan Bak Chua Chan Bak Hai

Chan Bak Fah

Alex Hong

Grandsons: Chang Kim Hock William Chang Kim Huat Chan Boon Wee Justin Chan Yong Chuan **Zhang Qingye**

Daughters-in-law:

Cheng Sai Chee Phoong Gek Noi Tan Siang Magdalene (Deceased) Lim Por Khim, Alice

Phua Beng Hoon

Granddaughters-in-law: Sung Bee Yung

Athena Ho Teng Teng

Daughters: Chan Quck Heyok Chan Gek Nui

Chang Gek Hiang

Granddaughters: Jenny Chang Ah Thien **Christiana Chang Tiang Muay** Chang Mui Tian Chan Siew Hoon, Wendy Cynthia Chan Mingli Caron Chan Huili Maureen Chan Poh Mui Christina Leo Zheng Fan

Joanne Leo Chen Yan Chan Shan Shan **Gwendoline Chong**

Chan Yanling

Sons-in-law: Leo Hee Kiat

Lee Sung Chi

Chong Loi Sin

Grandsons-in-law:

Michael Sng Beng Hoe Tan Piak Long Lee Chin Kong

Erwan Betavas Goh Ngee Boon

Chong Yee Le, David

Great-grandsons:

Tan Qin Woon Kenneth Tan Jun Heng Joseph Chang Jun Xiang Marcus Sng Jian Jie Maurice Sng Jian Quan Martin Sng Jian Xiong **Edan Chang** Lucas Chang Lucas Lee Hao Rong Matthieu Lee Zhuo Rong Youenn Betavas Mael Betavas

Great-granddaughters:

Melissa Tan Tzeya Steffi Chan Min Kimberley Chan Xi Kaitlin Lee Ying Xuan

Body is resting at Blk 716 Clementi West Street 2 Singapore 120716. Contact Tel: 9672 7478 / 9673 3915

Cortege will leave on 16 Jan, 1240 hrs for Mandai Crematorium and Columbarium Service Hall 3 for cremation at 1340 hrs.

With Deepest Sympathy & **Heartfelt Condolences to** Our Director, Mr Chan Bak Chua on the demise of his beloved mother



YEOW KAH WHAY on 10 January 2019

From:

The Management and Staff of **Kenoil Marine Services Pte Ltd** With Deepest Sympathy & Heartfelt Condolences to

Our Founder, Mr Jimmy Chan and Director, Ms Maureen Chan

on the demise of their beloved mother/ grandmother



YEOW KAH WHAY on 10 January 2019

From:

The Management and Staff of

Victory Petroleum Trading Pte Ltd



PEARL ONG AI YONG

Sons-in-law:

Jeffrey Tan Poh Boon

Philip Law Joo Teck

Granddaughters:

Hannah Law En Qi

Julia Tan Ru Yi

Sisters:

Julie Lee

Sarah Hang

Mabel Kong

God-daughter:

Age: 78 was called home to be with the Lord on 9th Jan 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Husband: Jerome Toh Kooi Hor Daughters: Josephine Toh Chin Chiet Johanna Toh Chin Ing

Joshua Tan Kun

Brothers: Ong Ai Ming Ong Ai Kok God-son: David Kong

Grandson:

Wake is held at Blk 158 Simei Road #01-252 S(520158). Tel: 90060311 / 94306333 Night prayers will be held from 11th to 13th Jan (8pm).

Cortege leaves on Monday, 14th Jan at 10.30am for Mass at Church of Saints Peter and Paul (11am); thereafter for Choa Chu Kang Cemetery for burial at noon.





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SORNA GHANTHI D/O RAMASAMY

Age: 89

passed away peacefully on 10 January 2019.

Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones. **Husband:** The late Sidhambaram (Veerappan)

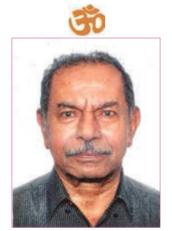
> Sons: Kalidass

Mageandran

Daughters: Tanalechimy The late Malliga Pushpa Rajeswary

Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law, Grandchildren, all Relatives and Friends. Amma is resting at Blk 806 King George's Ave #12-206 S200806. Cortege will leave on 11 Jan 2019 (Friday) at 3.15pm for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 4.15pm.

Tel: 9240 3572



K SUKUMARAN 8.8.1934 - 10.01.2019

"Goodnight Sweet Prince May Flights of Angels Take Thee to Thy Rest"

Beloved Husband of 62 years to Janikie. Cherished Father to Prema & Saithu, Sureish & Asha, Anu & Bruce,

Sulekha & Suresh. Devoted Grandfather to Laavanya & Sam, Ashwin & Andrea, Ashwini & Mark, Sukhanya, Aadithya, Shyam & Dora, Shubha, Ram & Stacey, Sidharrth, Sudharrshan, Sharanya.

Doting Great Grandfather to Seth, Ishaan & Hendrix Dearest Brother to Sumukhan, Vasantha & Family We are Celebrating our Acha's life at Blk 469A Admiralty Drive, #13-91 (751469)

Cortege leaves Today 11 January 2019 at 4pm for Cremation Service at Mandai Crematorium, Hall 4 at 5.00pm. "To know Him is to Love Him"



CHEE KIT YENG **Age: 81**

passed away peacefully on 9 January 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones. **Husband:** Low Tai Ee

Daughters-in-law:

Karen Ang Gim Lian

Annette Ong Shi Hui

Heng Puay Ling

Ong Chee Beng

Tan Beng Swee

Sons-in-law:

Tan E-Jynn

Tan Yun-E

Sons: Low Boon Hon

Low Boon Chew

Daughters: Annie Low Boon Cheng Low Boon Yean

Grandsons: Derrick Low Yi Mao

Andrew Ong Jun Kang **Granddaughters:**

Andrea Ong Shi En

Clara Low Puay Cheng Emma Low Puay Puay

Special thanks to Dr Choo Su Pin and her dedicated team of doctors and nurses of Ward 73 at SGH for taking good care of our Mum, and also to Dr Adrian Koh Thong Kiang and Dr Kong Hwai Loong.

Body is resting at Blk 140 Jalan Bukit Merah, S'pore 160140.

Cortege will leave on 13 Jan 2019 (Sunday) at 10.25am for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation.



Chew Soon Eng Mrs Lim Soon Eng

Passed away peacefully on 10 January 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones. Husband: Benny Lim Eng Hooi (deceased)

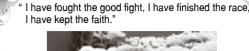
Children:
Dr Eileen Lim Eang Ling
Dr Kenneth Lim Chin Leong Dr Michael Lim Yew Leong Grandchildren: Daniel Choo Chern Li Dr Lim Ling Li Minerva Lim

Spouses: Choo Chiau Beng Ong Gaik Choo Florence Chia

Andrew James Colin White

And all relatives and friends. Wake is held at Singapore Casket Level 3, Sapphire Hall, 131 Lavender Street, Singapore 338737.

Cortege leaves on Saturday 12 January 2019 at 4.00pm for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 5.00pm. No wreaths please.
All donations to Changi Health Fund (Ltd)





YEO CHWEE BEE 1927 - 2019

was called home to be with the Lord on 9 January 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Husband: Tan Khoon Hock (deceased)

Daughters-in-law: Clifford Tan Janet Wee Terry Tan Janet Keh

Grandchildren: Grandchildren-in-law: Aaron Tan Seet Ling Li Joel Tan Cheryl Tan Michelle Tan Nathaniel Cher Amelia Tan

Great-Granddaughter: Jean Tan

Wake is held at Singapore Funeral Parlour Level 2 Daisy Hall, 91 Tampines Link Singapore 528746. Nightly services will be held at 8.00pm. Funeral service on Sunday, 13 January 2019 at 4.00pm Thereafter to Mandai Crematorium Hall 1

for cremation at 5.00pm.



Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6

We miss you both dearly,

Always deeply cherished and loved by Ho & Mew Family.



Arunasalam Santha Nagandiran Senior Teacher at CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity

Wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all relatives and friends for their kind assistance, attendance, condolences, donations and wreaths during our recent bereavement.

Kar<mark>umathi Prayers</mark> will be held on the night of Saturday 12 January 2019 at Block 123 Serangoon North Avenue 1, #02-155, Singapore 550123. Athma Shanthi Pooja will be held on Sunday

13 January 2019 at 7.00pm at Sri Sivan Temple, 24 Geylang East Avenue 2, Singapore 389752. Please treat this as a personal invitation. Tel: 9018 5614



Sukhmani Sahib and Sehaj Path Da Bhog prayers will be held on Saturday, 12 January 2019 from 2pm - 4pm at Central Sikh Temple.

Please treat this as a personal invitation. HP: 9691 4007



"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want... and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

Mervyn Lim Kay Leong

Genevieve Lim Puay Gek Geraldine Lim Puay Lian Siblings, in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

In memory of

a loved one

Wake at The Oratory Nativity Parish, Prayer Room 2, 100 Hougang Avenue 8, Singapore 538790. Nightly prayers will be held at 8.00pm. Cortege leaves on Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 9.30am for

Funeral Mass at Church of the Transfiguration, 51 Punggol Central, Singapore 828725 at 10.00am, thereafter to Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 12.05pm.



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Iceland has had to overcome challenges like a short football season, bad weather, and lack of finances.

SIGURDUR RAGNAR EYJOLFSSON, former Iceland technical director and coach, hoping to apply the Icelandic experience in Singapore as FAS technical director C9



Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus heading home the first of his four goals against Burton in the first leg of their League Cup semi-final. City's nine-goal advantage all but secures their spot in the final. PHOTOS: REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HAMMERING IS BEST FORM OF 'RESPECT'

Guardiola praises City side for relentlessness in 9-0 League Cup win over third-tier Burton

LONDON • Nigel Clough managed to retain his sense of humour after Burton's 9-0 trouncing by Manchester City, stating his hope that Pep Guardiola had "more than one glass" of wine on offer for the postmatch drink.

The third-tier side's heavy loss in the League Cup semi-final first leg at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday ended their hopes of reaching the final, yet he remained lighthearted when asked what his opposite number told him at full-time.

"He said, 'Come in for a glass of wine'. I hope he's got more than a glass," said the visiting manager, who insists his team will use the return leg in a fortnight to celebrate reaching the last four.

"Do I wish we hadn't played? Not at all, we have made history in getting this far. It wasn't about tonight, it was about the achievement of getting here. We kept going right to the end, the City fans were shouting, 'We want 10'. And we stopped them, that's a positive for us."

Gabriel Jesus struck four goals as Kevin de Bruyne, Oleksandr Zinchenko, Phil Foden, Kyle Walker and Riyad Mahrez were also on target against Clough's League One side, with victory leaving their visit to the Pirelli Stadium

on Jan 23 a mere formality. City manager Guardiola said his team's merciless approach in the game was a form of respect for their opponents and the competition.

City were 4-0 up at half-time but continued to rip apart their vastly outclassed opponents as they ran up the biggest margin of victory in an English Cup semi-final.

"If you forget to continue (attacking) you don't have respect for your opponent or for the competition," said the Spaniard.

"We spoke about it at half-time, to try to score more goals. That is the best way to respect the competition and opponent. The best way is to do what you have to do.

"The difference between the Premier League teams and League One teams, of course the quality of the players no doubt about that, but especially the rhythm. When you have high intensity and rhythm for 90 minutes, the physicality is higher and we scored quickly."

Guardiola also praised the club's achievement in reaching the last four, a run which saw them beat Premier League side Burnley and Championship teams Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough.

"Burton have had an incredible tournament. They have to be so proud, they did so well," he said.

Clough, son of Nottingham Forest's late European Cup-winning manager Brian Clough, added that he was not surprised at the outcome because of "the gulf between the two teams".

City were rightly lauded by Clough for their technical class and football rooted in total adventure but their work rate was also of the highest order.

They can outrun opponents as well as outpass them. They have the strength in depth to make changes, with only four regular first-teamers starting, and still be far too good for their opposition.

Ilkay Gundogan was doing what he does best, spraying around some exquisite passes when given time. David Silva was gliding around, passing and moving, finding room

and friendly feet, small but perfectly performing. De Bruyne was supposedly easing

his way back to full fitness but was in full Rolls-Royce mode between the boxes for an hour.

There had to be some sympathy for Burton's players facing such superior opposition. They had desperately wanted to cherish the memories of this League Cup semi-final and maybe, in time, they will.

Not at the final whistle on Wednesday, though. When Mahrez prodded in the ninth goal in the 83rd minute, they were just glad a 10th was not forthcoming. THE GUARDIAN, THE TIMES, LONDON, **REUTERS**





Manchester City have scored nine goals, the final one netted by Riyad Mahrez (above, left), in a single match for the first time since November 1987, when they beat Huddersfield 10-1 in a second-tier encounter.

Burton's 9-0 loss is the heaviest League Cup defeat by any side since Liverpool defeated Fulham 10-0 in the second round in September 1986. It is also the largest margin of defeat in the semi-finals of the competition.



Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey, 28, is leaving Arsenal after 10 years at the end of this season on a free transfer. PHOTO: REUTERS

agreed a five-year deal with Juventus worth £36 million (S\$62 million) and will join the Italian champions on a free transfer at the end of

the season.

The 28-year-old Wales midfielder has been discussing a move for weeks and will leave Arsenal after 10 years. It had been clear he would move on in the summer and Juventus had been the front runners to secure his signature.

He will be paid around £140,000 a week, making him Juventus' sec-

LONDON · Aaron Ramsey has ond-highest earner behind Cristiano Ronaldo but ahead of Paulo Dybala and Douglas Costa.

> Juventus, who have won the past seven Serie A titles, signed Ronaldo for €100 million (S\$156 million) last summer and are on 53 points, nine clear of Napoli after 19 games.

> They have reached two of the last four Champions League finals, losing to Barcelona in 2015 and Real Madrid in 2017.

> They have reached the last 16 of Europe's top club competition this season, where they will face an

other Spanish side Atletico Madrid. Juventus manager Max Allegri and director Fabio Paratici are huge admirers of Ramsey, who is set to be given a place in the starting XI,

most likely with Miralem Pjanic

and Blaise Matuidi in a three-man

Ramsey moving to Juve on five-year \$62m deal

midfield. He is likely to replace one of Emre Can, Rodrigo Bentancur and Sami Khedira, with the latter possibly

leaving in the summer.

Ramsey signed for Arsenal from Cardiff for £4.8 million. He has played 252 top-flight games for the

club, scoring 52 goals. He won three FA Cups, scoring the winning goal in the 2014 and 2017 finals.

He played arguably the best football of his career during Euro 2016 when Wales reached the semi-finals. But he was suspended for that match, which they lost 2-0 to eventual winners Portugal.

He has had his fair share of injury problems but Juventus are deighted to secure him on a free.

For Arsenal, who are playing in the second-tier Europa League for a second straight season, they will re-

gret seeing a player in his prime leave under these circumstances.

With Arsenal choosing to renew the contract of Mesut Ozil, another star whose deal was due to expire this summer, they put themselves in a position where they could not re-sign Ramsey too, without keeping their £200 million annual wage bill under control.

Arsenal manager Unai Emery also had major reservations over both Ozil and Ramsey fitting into his plans and the style he wants to play. THE GUARDIAN, REUTERS

'START YOUNG AND TRAIN A LOT'

Eyjolfsson, who eyes FAS technical director position, says Iceland can be model for S'pore

David Lee

With a population of less than 350,000, Iceland's meteoric rise in football has drawn questions here as to why Singapore cannot follow suit, with both nations hemmed in by limited human resources.

Sigurdur Ragnar Eyjolfsson will insist that it is possible to taste success as he throws his name into the hat for the Football Association of Singapore (FAS) technical director position, which is vacant after Belgian Michel Sablon left last month.

The local game is in transition, with the FAS finalising two major appointments – technical director and national coach - that will have a big influence on its direction.

Eyjolfsson's last job saw him lead eight-time champions China to a bronze in the Women's Asian Cup last year that helped them qualify for this year's World Cup.

But it is his background as Iceland's technical director and coach education director from 2002 to 2014 that catches the eye. He was part of the team responsible for improving his country's world ranking from 131st in 2012 to 33rd in 2014. They hit a high of 18th in February last year and are now 37th.

But beyond statistics, what has put them in the headlines in recent years are their debuts at major tournaments:

- Euro 2016, in which they beat
- England 2-1 to reach the last eight World Cup 2018, where they

distinguished themselves by holding Lionel Messi's Argentina to a 1-1 draw in Russia

Eyjolfsson, explaining his interest in the comparatively lower-profile Singapore job, told The Straits Times in an exclusive interview that he simply fits the bill.

"Iceland has a population of only 350,000 people, around 22,000 players of all ages, has only a semiprofessional league, has had to overcome challenges like a short football season, bad weather, and lack of finances," said the 45-year-old, who also guided his country to their first Women's Euro Finals in 2009 and the quarter-finals in 2013.

"But by being strategic and hardworking, we had both national teams around the top 20 in the world rankings last year and managed to regularly beat bigger nations like England, the Netherlands

"We have over 100 professional

players abroad in strong leagues all over the world and over 600 qualified coaches so our player and coach development is top class considering the resources we have."

He is neither fazed at taking over at a time when the 165th-ranked Lions and the youth teams are struggling, nor by the fact that worldrenowned technical directors like Jan Poulsen (1999 to 2003) and Sablon (2015 to 2018) have failed.

Eyjolfsson, who "really enjoyed working in Asia", advocates a system in which "players start young to train and have the possibility to train a lot; qualified and educated coaches teach players the right things at the right age; and coaches to have coach education".

However, he acknowledged that each national association has its own challenges, adding: "The important thing is to work out the best strategy for Singapore football and take into account the football culture and what is realistic to achieve within a certain time period.

"If you take the fact that prosperity, education and population are all good in Singapore, the national teams and football as a whole have the possibility to greatly improve."

While the FAS did not reveal how many applications it has received for the technical director post, it is understood that it could unveil the new man at the end of next month.

FAS deputy president Bernard Tan told ST: "He should be someone who is able to look at the whole pipeline of players in Singapore football ecosystem - from the grassroots to the elite national teams.

"He should also either have or be able to build close ties with the local fraternity, including clubs and the national head coach.

"Importantly, he should also be adaptable to the local context.'

davidlee@sph.com.sg



UNEARTHING TALENT

We have over 100 professional players abroad in strong leagues all over the world and over 600 qualified coaches.

SIGURDUR RAGNAR EYJOLFSSON, on

SportsWorld

Loh, Yeo in Thai Masters last eight

Singapore badminton players Loh Kean Yew and Yeo Jia Min beat higher-ranked opponents in the last 16 at the Princess Sirivannavari Thailand Masters yesterday to reach the quarter-finals of a level five (Super 300) event for the first time.

In Bangkok, world No. 125 Loh beat China's No. 47 Zhao Junpeng 21-10, 21-19 in 39 minutes in the men's singles. In the women's singles, No. 53 Yeo beat Germany's No. 45 Yvonne Li 21-6, 21-18 in 28 minutes.

Loh will play Taiwan's No. 29 Wang Tzu-wei while Yeo will face Indonesia's No. 33 Fitriani Fitriani todav.

Mourinho in line for Madrid return

LONDON • Jose Mourinho is available for a dramatic return to Real Madrid after Manchester United paid him a reported £15 million (S\$25.8 million) in compensation following his sacking last month, reported The Daily Mail yesterday.

A source close to Mourinho revealed compensation has been paid. That leaves the Portuguese free to be considered for Real should the football club decide to dismiss under-pressure coach Santiago Solari. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PSG dumped from Cup after shock defeat

PARIS • Paris Saint-Germain saw their 43-match winning run in domestic Cup competitions come to an end as Thomas Tuchel's men suffered a shock 2-1 home defeat by Ligue One bottom club Guingamp in the French League Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Neymar broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute, before Yeni Ngbakoto and Marcus Thuram both scored penalties to clinch the win. It was only a second loss in all competitions this season for the capital football club, after a 3-2 loss to Liverpool at Anfield in the Champions League last September. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Spain arrests 28 tennis pros for fixing

MADRID • Spanish police have arrested 83 people, including 28 professional tennis players, following an investigation into match-fixing by an organised Armenian criminal gang, the European Union's Europol agency said yesterday.

One of the 28 players reportedly took part in the US Open last year, although the authorities did not disclose any of the names implicated. REUTERS



Asian Cup 2019

Thai Messi gets campaign back on track

DUBAI • His fans compare him to Argentina superstar Lionel Messi, and Chanathip Songkrasin proved that he too can be a match winner when his team need him most.

The 25-year-old midfielder, who plays his club football for Japan's Hokkaido Consadole Sapporo, kept Thailand's Asian Cup hopes alive by scoring the only goal in a 1-0 win over Bahrain in their second Group

A match in Dubai yesterday. The Thais were under pressure at the Al-Maktoum Stadium following their 4-1 loss to India on Sunday.

Milovan Rajevac was sacked as coach after that defeat, which meant the War Elephants needed a win yesterday to stay in contention to progress from the group stage.

They showed their ambition when Chanathip put the Thais in the driving seat in the 58th minute with a superbly struck volley that rocketed past goalkeeper Sayed Shubbar Alawi.

Thai interim head coach Sirisak Yodyadthai said he was not surprised with the result.

"I promised a surprise in the pre-

match conference, and that came basically from the belief I had from my players," he told Dubai's Gulf News. "I always believed they could deliver on the pitch. We did very well to keep Bahrain away from a goal in the first half and, in the second, the players delivered

exactly what I wanted."

It was only Thailand's second Asian Cup win in 22 games. Their previous win came in 2007, when they beat Oman on home soil.

The win did not come easy. Thailand had zero shots on target as

Bahrain controlled the first half, forcing goalkeeper Chatchai Bootprominto a double save.

Following Chanathip's goal, Chatchai again had to save brilliantly from Ali Jaafar Madan as Bahrain hunted unsuccessfully for the equaliser. The victory put Thailand temporarily level on three points with India, who took on the United Arab Emirates in a later match, the result of which was not available at press time.

The Thais next face hosts UAE on Monday in their final group match.

The top two from each group and four best third-placed teams will move into the last 16.

In another match yesterday, Jordan, who upset champions Australia in the tournament opener, became the first team to seal their progress to the knockout stage with a 2-0 win over Syria. The victory left them top of Group B with six points. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PALESTINE V AUSTRALIA Singtel TV Ch114 & StarHub Ch208,

AFC to take channel to court for TV piracy

DOHA • The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Wednesday it was taking legal action in Saudi Arabia against television channel beoutQ for illegally broadcasting its Asian Cup, the region's biggest football tournament.

The channel has been accused by football's governing body Fifa, tennis governing bodies and other sports bodies of illegally airing content, whose exclusive TV rights in the Middle East belong to Qatar-

based broadcaster beIN. BeoutQ emerged in 2017 after Saudi Arabia and its allies launched a diplomatic and trade boycott of Oatar and accused the tiny Gulf state of supporting terrorism, which Doha denies.

BeoutQ is widely available in Saudi Arabia. But Riyadh says it is not based there and that the au $thorities\,are\,committed\,to\,fighting$ piracy, including announcing the confiscation of 12,000 pirating devices last June.

It is unclear who owns or operates the channel.

In a statement, the AFC said the Asian Cup, which kicked off in Abu Dhabi last week, had been appearing illegally on beoutQ.

"The AFC has already instructed counsel to take legal action in Saudi Arabia and is working alongside other sports rights owners that have also been affected to protect its interest," the statement said.

The Saudi government media office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the AFC action.

Qatar-based beIN Sports holds exclusive TV rights to a wide range of events for the Middle East including football's World Cup, the English Premier League, and AFC matches.

Last month, the World Trade Organisation said it would investigate Qatari allegations of intellectual property breaches by Saudi Arabia, including the piracy of beIN content, despite Riyadh's objections on national security grounds.

Fifa said last July it would pursue legal action against beoutQ after the illegal broadcast of last year's World Cup, but details of the case have not yet been made public.

Saudi Arabia said at the time that the football governing body's decision would supplement its "relentless efforts" to combat beoutQ's activities. REUTERS

Event	Home	Away	Timing	Venue
Event	nome	Away	1 illining	Yellu
	Fri, 1	1 Jan 2019		
A League	Melbourne City	Brisbane Roar	4.50 pm	LW
Asian Cup	Palestine	Australia	7.00 pm	LW
Asian Cup	Philippines	China PR	9.30 pm	LW*
	Sat, 1	2 Jan 2019		
Asian Cup	Kyrgyzstan	Korea Republic	12.00 am	LW*
English League Champ	Leeds	Derby	3.45 am	LW*
Spanish League	Vallecano	Celta de Vigo	4.00 am	LW.
LW* : Telecast not available			9.	
Visit singaporepools.com for	or the latest 'Live' tel	ecast listing.		

TOTO

Fri, 11 Jan 2019, 9.30pm Draw No. 3439/2019

Group 1 Prize \$5,000,000 est

Draw Venue: Singapore Pools (Private) Limited, 210 Middle Road, #01-01, Singapore 188994 No person under the age of 18 years shall be allowed to purchase a ticket of



SPORT

Next 48 Hours

TODAY

BASKETBALL

ABL Zhuhai Wolf Warriors v S'pore Slingers (StarHub Ch202, 8pm), Alab Pilipinas v HK Eastern (Ch201, 8pm).

FOOTBALL

AFC Asian Cup Group B: Palestine v Australia (6.50pm). Gp C: Philippines v China (9.20pm), Kyrgyzstan v South Korea (11.50pm) – Singtel TV Ch114 & StarHub Ch208. Spanish LaLiga Rayo v Celta (StarHub Ch213, tomorrow, 3.40am).

TENNIS

ATP/WTA Sydney International S-finals (Singtel TV Ch115 & StarHub Ch209, 12.30pm & 5.30pm).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

AFC Asian Cup Gp D: Vietnam v Iran (6.50pm), Yemen v Iraq (9.20pm). Gp E: Lebanon v Saudi Arabia (11.50pm) – Singtel TV Ch114 & Star Hub Ch208. English Premier League West Ham v Arsenal (8.30pm), Brighton v Liverpool (11pm), Chelsea v Newcastle (Sunday, 1.30am) – Singtel TV Ch102 & Star Hub Ch227. Leicester v Southampton (Ch103 & Ch228), Crystal Palace v Watford (Ch104 & Ch229), Cardiff v Huddersfield (Ch105 & Ch230), Burnley v Fulham (Ch106 & Ch231) – 10.50pm.

Spanish LaLiga Leganes v Huesca (7.55pm), Valencia v Valladolid (11.10pm), Girona v Alaves (Sunday, 1.25am), Villarreal v Getafe (Sunday, 3.40am) – StarHub Ch213.

TENNIS

ATP/WTA Sydney International Finals (Singtel TV Ch115 & StarHub Ch209, 4pm).

For latest updates, go to singteltv.com.sg & starhubgo.com or check the on-screen TV quide.



Q: 100Plus is the Official Hydration Partner of the SMBC Singapore Open 2019.

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- By entering this contest, you agree to share data (including personal data) with organisers solely for the purposes of this contest.
 The organisers' decision is final.
- Employees of 100Plus, IMSG and Singapore Press Holdings are not eligible to enter this contest.
 Passes to the tournament are valid only for admission to the Serapong Course at the
- admission to the Serapong Course at the Sentosa Golf Club and such other designated area(s) (the "Venue") on the date(s) as shown. The Sentosa Island admission fee and vehicle fee shall still apply. Passes must be produced at appropriate entry points and/or on demand by any authorised official. Pass holders shall display their passes at all times whilst they are at the venue.

• All passes are personal to the holders and are strictly non-transferable.

FEDERER IDENTIFIES TRIPLE TITLE THREAT

Defending champ sees Djokovic, Zverev and Nadal as challengers to Australian crown

MELBOURNE • Double defending champion Roger Federer has unsurprisingly named Novak Djokovic as his main rival ahead of the Australian Open next week.

It is just as well for him that he and the Serb, both eyeing a record seventh title, were kept apart in the draw yesterday and cannot meet unless both reach the final.

Djokovic had a magnificent 2018, making an astonishing climb back from outside the world's top 20 in June to winning Wimbledon and the US Open on the way to reclaiming the No. 1 ranking in November.

It is no wonder that Federer, 37, is wary of the 31-year-old, but the Swiss great has also picked ATP Finals champion Alexander Zverev and long-time rival Rafael Nadal as contenders.

"Novak, Zverev, Rafa if he's 100 per cent," the 20-time Grand Slam winner said at the draw ceremony held at Margaret Court Arena yesterday when asked who he thinks could win the men's title this year.

"He (Djokovic) continues to challenge me. I played him in his prime when he was virtually unbeatable. It was important not to get frustrated by it. I always enjoy my matches against him.

"We are both natural attacking players. We are aggressive. He is up there with Nadal and (Lleyton) Hewitt, they make me rethink my game. I like to play attacking tennis, so I've come full circle."

He starts his bid for a hat-trick of titles against the unseeded Uzbek Denis Istomin, who upset Djokovic in the second round two years ago.

Federer, who beat Marin Cilic in the final last year, could meet the Croat in the quarter-finals, should he come through a potentially tricky fourth-round tie against

Should he make the last four, he could find Nadal, who retired in the last eight last year, waiting for him.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Djokovic will first meet a qualifier and could play a rematch of his 2008 final triumph over Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, with a possible quarter-final against Japan's Kei Nishikori.

Second seed Nadal, under an injury cloud after pulling out of the Brisbane International, will open

against unseeded local James Duckworth, with South African Kevin Anderson a possible quarter-final

Fourth seed Zverev will start against Slovenian Aljaz Bedene.

against Slovenian Aljaz Bedene.
In the women's draw, Serena Williams' bid for a record-equalling 24th Slam title and eighth at Melbourne Park will start against German world No. 71 Tatjana Maria.

The American, however, faces a tough run to the quarter-finals, with top seed and last year's finalist Simona Halep of Romania a possible fourth-round opponent.

Halep will start against unseeded Estonian Kaia Kanepi, who knocked her out in the first round of last year's US Open.

US Open champion Naomi Osaka faces Poland's Magda Linette first.

Defending champion Caroline Wozniacki, who broke through for her maiden Grand Slam title last year, is in line to face former winner Maria Sharapova in a mouthwatering third-round showdown.

"I can't believe it's been a year already," Dane Wozniacki said at the draw. "To get that (title) here was so special, it's the happy Slam." REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Huge prize is big boost for LPGA golfers

NEW YORK • The PGA and LPGA Tours on Wednesday announced the introduction of a season-long competition which will reward a player on each tour with US\$1 million (S\$1.35 million) for the best performance on a designated hole at each tournament.

The best two scores from every participating event for golfers, who have played a minimum of 40 rounds, will be taken into consideration for the Aon Risk Reward Challenge.

LPGA commissioner Mike Whan believes that the prize, for the best average score to par, will be extremely significant for the women's tour.

While 114 players on the PGA Tour earned more than US\$1 million in official prize money last year, only 14 LPGA players did likewise on the US-based women's circuit. The figure illustrates the financial disparity that exists between the tours.

"One million dollars is more than the winner received at the US Women's Open last year," Whan told Reuters on Wednesday.

"It's just a powerful message," he added in an interview on the Golf Channel. "We're starting to see a series of pillar moments, where we are starting to create the kind of equality you see happening every day within companies that are sponsors."

Twenty-nine LPGA events will be involved in the contest. The PGA Tour, whose chosen holes will be unveiled later this month, will have 36 events.

The LPGA contest will start at next week's seasonopening Tournament of Champions on the par-four 16th hole at Tranquilo Golf Club in Orlando, Florida.

"The line-up includes a wonderful mix of parthree, par-four and par-five holes, all with unique elements and challenges," said Heather Daly-Donofrio, the LPGA's chief tour operations officer. Players gave their thumbs up to the initiative.

"It is awesome to see that the LPGA and PGA tours are equally awarding each winner with the Aon Trophy and the same US\$1 million prize," said Georgia Hall, who will play in the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore next month.

Lizette Salas added: "Now that the scoring system and holes have been revealed, I am looking forward to analysing them with my team to determine our optimal game plan." REUTERS



The money – in US dollars – a player on the PGA and LPGA tours will earn for the best performance on a designated hole at each tournament.

Greek Freak keeps Bucks at NBA's summit



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo driving to the basket against the Houston Rockets' P.J. Tucker in the third quarter on Wednesday. The Bucks forward tipped in a basket with 39.1 seconds left to help the team with the best National Basketball Association record (29-11) fend off a furious home rally and squeeze out a 116-109 victory. The Bucks, winners in 11 of their last 13 games, coughed up most of their 15-point, fourth-quarter lead before Antetokounmpo parlayed his 20th rebound into a six-point lead. The Greek finished with team highs in points (27) and rebounds (21). James Harden paced Houston (23-17) with 42 points and 11 rebounds. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pacquiao not looking beyond Broner title bout

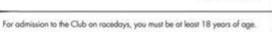
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LOS ANGELES • Filipino multiple world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao said on Wednesday that while he is focused on defending his title against American Adrien

yond the ring.

The World Boxing Association welterweight champion knows he will have his hands full when he battles the hard-hitting Broner in Las Vegas on Jan 19 and is not lining up

Broner, he has considered life be-

fighters down the road.

"At the age of 40, it's hard to think about future fights," he said ahead of a workout at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood.

"Just one at a time."

Pacquiao is reuniting with longtime trainer Freddie Roach for his clash with Broner at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, following a two-year rupture in what was once regarded as one of the more tightly knit fighter-trainer relationships in

boxing.
The pair had worked together for 15 years before parting ways in 2017.

The "Pac-Man" also dismissed concerns that he has lost the knock-out power that made him the sport's only eight-division world champion and among the best

pound-for-pound fighters of all time.

After a knockout drought, he had a return to form in July when he stunned defending champion Lucas Matthysse with a seventhround knockout in Kuala Lumpur to claim the welterweight title.

"I still have it," said the soft-spoken Pacquiao, who is 60-7-2 with 39 knockouts in his career.

"God is good," he said with a smile.

He knows, though, that Father Time is undefeated and hanging up his gloves would allow him to embrace his other passion – politics. Some believe the popular Pacquiao, who is already a senator in the Philippines, could take over from President Rodrigo Duterte when the election to replace the latter is held in 2022.

"Well if God wants me to be, then why not?" he said, when asked if he would like the position.

"But I'm not thinking about that now. Being a public servant is different from sports. It's more on the mind and a lot of problems, thinking about how to solve those problems in the country, and also to provide solutions to those problems."

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS



RED CARPET FASHION Who are you wearing? D2&3



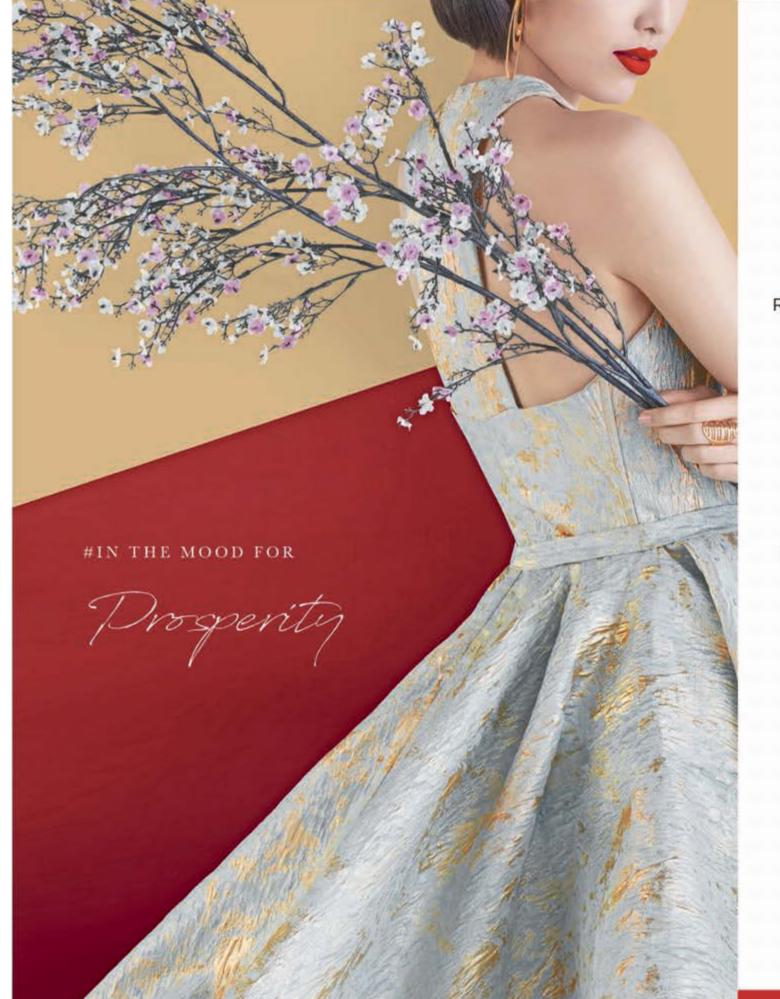
Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.

- Jim Rohn





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Fashion at the Golden Globes

times

Beyond the best-dressed list, the celebrities' outfit choices reflect the changes afoot in the zeitgeist of Hollywood and entertainment

Gordon Ng

The start of the year brings on the awards season – an annual affair that sees a concentration of film and television stars dressed up and put under close international scrutiny. These awards can serve as kingmakers in the entertainment industry by boosting profiles immensely. The more immediate impact, though, is the vanity fair that is the

red carpet. Look a little deeper and you will find that the fancy gowns and tuxedos have something to say about the

stlife@sph.com.sg

 Gordon Ng is a freelance fashion writer.





(Clockwise from left) actor-director **Bradley Cooper** (left, with model Irina Shayk) in Gucci; actress Sandra Oh in Versace; and Julianne Moore in Givenchy. PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE,

EPA-EFE





after a year of scandals exposed bags. sexual assaults and harassment by Instead, there has been a plethora simply a flattering colour.

major industry players.

Hollywood has seen a major shift in attendees continued to tie or attach ple colour choice offers food for its consciousness towards women #Time'sUp tags to their outfits or thought. But it is getting hard to tell

of white looks, which might have Meanwhile, there have been no-Persona non grata No. 1 was movie hinted at suffragette dress. The table absences from the red carpet.

dress code this year, though some the previous year, that even a sir if white is a feminist statement or

producer Harvey Weinstein, who Golden Globes' host, television star The missing labels include Dolce came to represent exploitation by Sandra Oh, had a white Versace god- & Gabbana, after a series of culturpowerful men in show business. In dess gown; actress Julianne Moore ally insensitive remarks made by response, those in solidarity with wore a white haute couture creation designer Stefano Gabbana about the #Time'sUp movement commit- by Givenchy; and actor-director China; and Marchesa, because its ted to wearing black at award shows.

It was thus disappointing how

Bradley Cooper's Gucci tuxedo was founding designer, Georgina Chapman, was married to Weinstein. quickly Hollywood seemed to have The red carpet is so closely scruti- Wearing these labels today could returned to business as usual. nised now, especially after the pow-There was no such symbolic erful symbolism and solidarity in the stars are shying away.







Fashionable men: (Above from left) actor Billy Porter in Randi Rahm; actor Cody Fern in Maison Margiela; and Timothee Chalamet in Louis Vuitton.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019 | THE STRAITS TIMES

THE MEN AND THEIR A GAME

The age of the formulaic black-tie tuxedo might soon be gone. Male celebrities on the red carpet are beginning to take risks with their fashion choices, including at the Globes this year.

Actor Cody Fern wore an allblack Maison Margiela ensemble and, most notably, the house's iconoclastic cloven toe Tabi boots - a love-it or hate-it proposition.

Up-and-coming actor Timothee Chalamet's all-black ensemble featured a distinctive sequinned harness. Louis Vuitton called it an "embroidered bib", which sounds like an awkward infantile decoration, but Chalamet's youth and good looks make experimental fashion palatable.

So are men in black supporting #Time'sUp or merely going with the traditional sartorial colour of Another standout at the Globe

was Billy Porter, star of drama series Pose (2018 to present). The show is centred on the drag ball scene of New York in the 1980s and he showed up with flamboyant spirit to spare. He wore a coordinated suit and

cape, richly embroidered with flowers and lined in unmissable hot pink, by New York designer Randi

Twirling and posing unabashedly on the red carpet, he sent an obvious message that queer media, narratives, characters and actors are having a moment in Hollywood.



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MISSTEPS ON THE RED CARPET

A regular show-stealer, singer-actress Lady Gaga's haute couture Valentino gown at the Golden Globes – where she was up for Best Actress for A Star Is Born raised some giggles over its hue. The New York Times perplexingly called it "lunar blue", which led the brand to respond that wore it was periwinkle. But colour aside,

performance in the 1954 version of A Star Is Born. So it was left to popster Troye Sivan to sing the blues in a poorly fitted dark blue Calvin Klein suit the antithesis of the shimmering elegance of the completely beaded gown that actress Lupita Nyong'o

to the legendary Judy Garland's

She looked regal; he looked like a the dress was an inspired reference child drowning in fabric.

Singing the blues: (Above from left) singer-actress Lady Gaga in and singer Troye Sivan in Calvin Klein.

The Globes are just the start of the season, culminating in the Academy Awards on Feb 25. Awareness of social movements and mores in Hollywood is finding its way to the fashion that celebrities choose to support and display. As people pick over the hits and misses on the red carpet, "who are you wearing" is a question that

might be worth asking again.

UP NEXT

Rest and restore

The holiday season has come to a close. While frolicking under the sun or celebrating late into the night has created great memories, it has likely wreaked havoc on the body. The Straits Times speaks to beauty experts about how best to recover from the festivities and undo the damage caused to hair, skin, nails and feet.



Melissa Heng

ROUGH HEELS: MOISTURISE AND PAMPER WITH FOOT BATH

Have you been traipsing about in your flip-flops on your holiday? Then your soles probably got some rough treatment.

Ms Teresa Tong, 34, a trainer at cosmetics label The Body Shop, says applying a moisturiser gel or lotion on your feet before bed helps to smoothen and soften dry heels and toes.

"If you can, wear socks too. They might be uncomfortable, but they help to lock in the moisturiser."

She recommends The Body Shop's Peppermint Intensive Cooling Foot Rescue (\$25). A good habit is to file the bottom of your feet weekly to get rid of dead skin. "This will also help any product you apply absorb into the skin better," she says.

You can also treat your feet to a foot bath. Warm water and moisturising bath salts will help to hydrate the skin.

For something more indulgent, go for a foot treatment at a nail boutique. "Select a pedicure that includes a hydrating foot treatment such as a paraffin wax bath, which softens rough skin and also soothes aching joints," says Ms Tong.

SKIN OUTBREAK: SLEEP, DOUBLE CLEANSE AND DRINK WATER

Rich food, late nights and year-end parties can trigger zits and other skin issues. And depending on where you went for the holidays, air pollution can also harm the skin.

It is time to get your skin back into peak condition and glowing for Chinese New Year.

You cannot go wrong with beauty sleep. And always cleanse your face before bed.

"Double cleanse if you're wearing make-up," says Ms Xenia Wong, 24, founder of Singapore skincare brand Sigi Skin.

Double cleansing is a two-step approach. First, use an oil-based make-up remover or micellar water to remove make-up and oil

build-up. Then use a water-based facial cleanser to thoroughly remove sweat and bacteria.

But avoid using exfoliants while cleansing, says Mr Harvey Tsao, 41, regional manager (Asia) at beauty brand Chantecaille, as they may further irritate the breakout. "You must also resist squeezing pimples as this may cause scarring and hyper pigmentation."

Do not forget to drink lots of good old plain water too – it can help the skin heal faster and supposedly flush out toxins from the body. Ms Wong says: "If water is too bland, try infusing it with cut fruits to give it a refreshing taste."

be uncomfortable, but they help to lock in the moisturiser.

If you can, wear socks too. They might

MS TERESA TONG, a trainer at cosmetics label The Body Shop, on how socks can help lock in the moisturiser gel or lotion applied on feet before bed

SUN-SCORCHED SKIN:

MOISTURISE AND HYDRATE

That lovely bronze tan comes at a price – dehydrated skin and potentially painful burns.

Ms Wong of skincare brand Sigi Skin, has an easy fix for sunburnt skin: one ripe avocado and a teaspoon each of olive oil and aloe vera.

Mix them and apply the paste to the affected areas for 20 minutes before washing off. The paste can be kept in the refrigerator for up to seven days.

Ms Lily Kew, 48, founder of skincare label Kew Organics, says cooling the skin – by taking frequent cool baths and drinking lots of fluids – is key. While the skin is still inflamed, you should avoid

using heavy creams and lotions as they can "trap heat in the skin". Instead, use water-based products that are light and easily absorbed by the skin.

"Ideally, look out for soothing and hydrating ingredients such as aloe vera, chamomile and

"Ideally, look out for soothing and hydrating ingredients such as aloe vera, chamomile and cucumber," says Ms Kew, who recommends Kew Organics' Megaboost Hyaluronic+ Concentrate Serum (\$79.70).

Hair swells
when it is
wet, making
it more
fragile. By
brushing it
without any
lubricant, you
will create
further friction
and cause
irreversible
damage to the
cuticles.

MR SHAWN CHIA, associate director at hair salon Chez Vous, on why you should not untangle wet hair that is not conditioned

DAMAGED HAIR: APPLY A HAIR MASK

Whether you took a winter trip or a sunny tropical break, cold weather or constant dips in chlorinated or sea water can leave hair dry, brittle and damaged.

If you live in a condominium or have a gym membership,
Mr Shawn Chia, 30, associate director at hair salon Chez Vous, suggests making use of the steam room.

Apply a moisturising hair mask generously over damp hair without touching the scalp. Stay in the steam room for 10 minutes while combing the hair occasionally to untangle it and ensure even distribution of the mask.

"The heat and steam will help open up the hair cuticles and allow the products to penetrate deeper," he says.

After you leave the room, allow hair to cool for five minutes before rinsing off the mask. "This will allow the cuticles to close and lock in the treatment for a longer period of time."

No access to a steam room or strapped for time? You can apply a

leave-in hair mask before bed.
What you should not do is
attempt to untangle wet hair
when it is not conditioned as this
will damage the hair and cause
breakage.

"Hair swells when it is wet, making it more fragile. By brushing it without any lubricant, you will create further friction and cause irreversible damage to the cuticles," says Mr Chia.

"Unlike our skin, our hair cuticles will never regenerate by themselves."

WEAKENED NAILS: USE NAIL STRENGTHENER AND KEEP NAILS AWAY FROM TOO MUCH WATER

Many women get their nails done for the holidays, but do not know

how to take proper care of them.

Ms Valerie Chan, 28, assistant
brand manager at nail salon Sally
Hansen Singapore, says: "People
tend to get traditional gel
manicures over the festive season,
but harsh and incorrect removal
can damage and weaken nails."

Too much time in water can also make nails dry and soft. "Brittle or flaking nails often lead to chipping, tearing and breaking."

Applying a nail strengthener or a good base coat like the Sally Hansen Complete Care 7-in-1 nail treatment (\$19.50), Ms Chan says, can help to moisturise and protect them against further damage. "It's like a shield and beneficial even if you have strong nails."

Also, wear gloves when you are

doing chores like doing the dishes. For those who enjoy getting manicures, they should not peel off the nail polish. "Even if you can't see it with your naked eye, you're actually chipping away microscopic layers from your nail bed (the part beneath the nail). This will damage the nail and give it a rough texture."

melheng@sph.com.sg

ABUNDANCE IN BLOOM. 11 JAN - 4 FEB Abundance awaits at Paragon. Step in and enjoy the finest in festive offers and rewards, to usher in a flourishing Lunar New Year like no other.

A WEALTH OF REWARDS

Spend \$388' and receive a set of limited edition Paragon red packets. Top up your spending to \$688" and receive additional \$30 SPH Malls Vouchers. Limited to the first 1,000 and 900 shoppers respectively.

FESTIVE PARKING

Complimentary 2 hours' parking with min. spend of \$100 in a single receipt. Limited to the first 100 shoppers per day.

SOUNDS OF PROSPERITY

Take in the resounding rhythms of the Lunar New Year with performances

Modern Oriental Music Performances by Music EnVogue Thurs: 12.30pm & 1.30pm, Fri & Sat: 5pm & 6pm

Enjoy a distinguished lineup of artistes including award-winning jazz flutist Rit Xu, classical and pop musician Luan Ling and Indra Ismail Trio.

Traditional Drum Performances 26 Jan & 2 Feb: 2pm & 5pm, Front Foyer

Groove to the stirring beat of Chinese drums to welcome an uplifting new year.

STROKES OF FORTUNE 20 Jan: 2.30pm & 5.30pm

Join us for an inspiring calligraphy and piano performance by Very Special Arts (VSA) artists. Paintings will be on display at Level I Concierge and available for purchase. All proceeds will go to VSA, a local non-profit organisation that supports persons with special needs through the arts.

ABUNDANT OFFERS

Find everything you need for a flourishing season at the Metro Festive Fair from II Jan to 3 Feb at Atrium I. Also, look out for festive promotions and deals from our stores.

For more details, visit www.paragon.sg or Concierge at Level I. *Terms and conditions apply.



SERIO DAG SALVATORE FERRAGAMO SHOES TO

DRESS LAICHAN ACCESSORIES SULIN







GIGS

Rahul & Friends

Rahul Advani is a pop-rock singer-songwriter whose debut EP, Night Stories, was featured on the BBC Asian Network. His gig is part of a month-long series of free performances at the Esplanade celebrating new music. Advani, Yuresh Balakrishnan and Joshua Tan will put their own spin on songs by Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, John Mayer and Bruno Mars, as well as play original songs from Advani's upcoming EP, Elements. WHERE: Esplanade Forecourt Garden, 1Esplanade Drive MRT: Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN**: Jan 18, 7, 8.15 & 9.30pm ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Gerhana Skacinta 20th Anniversary Tour Live In Singapore

Malaysian ska band Gerhana Skacinta have appeared at festivals in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, and for their gig here, the band will perform their evergreen tracks Mimpi and This Is Ska. WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1Esplanade Drive MRT: Esplanade/ City Hall WHEN: Feb 7,7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$28 - \$58 TEL: 6348-5555 INFO: www.sistic.com.sg

Golden Prosperous Year

Celebrate Chinese New Year with local getai singers Wang Lei, Hao Hao, Li Pei Fen, Bao Bei Sisters, Zhong Jin Ling, Zheng Ying Ying, and veteran Malaysian singers Huang Xiao Feng and Zhuang Xue Zhong. WHERE: Resorts World Theatre, Resorts World Sentosa, 8 Sentosa Gateway MRT: HarbourFront WHEN: Feb 10, 1 & 4pm **ADMISSION:** \$38 - \$88 TEL: 6348-5555 INFO: www.sistic.com.sg

Lea Salonga: The Human Heart

Filipina singer and actress Lea Salonga is the singing voice of Princess Jasmine in Aladdin (1992) and the titular character in Mulan (1998). Among her numerous accolades is a Tony Award for her role in the musical Miss Saigon. WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive MRT: Esplanade/ City Hall WHEN: Feb 14, 7.30pm ADMISSION: \$48 - \$188 (limited concessions for students, full-time national servicemen & seniors: \$40 -\$65) **INFO**: www.esplanade.com

Blackpink World Tour

Live Nation and One Production have brought Blackpink 2019 World Tour (In Your Area) Singapore to the Singapore Indoor Stadium. The South Korean group will perform not only their hit songs, but also remixed versions.

WHERE: Singapore Indoor Stadium, 2 Stadium Walk MRT: Stadium WHEN: Feb 15, 7.30pm ADMISSION: \$128 - \$268, tickets from sportshubtix.sg, Singapore Indoor Stadium Box Office & SingPost outlets TEL: 3158-7888

TALKS

Thailand's Asean Chairmanship: **Advancing Partnership For** Sustainability

The 19th Asean Lecture by Mr Arthayudh Srisamoot, deputy permanent secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will discuss Thailand's theme for the Asean chairmanship. It will identify strategic priorities for Asean this year, opportunities it must take advantage of, challenges it must address and the most viable direction it should take

Eddino Abdul Hadi Music Correspondent recommends

SANGEETHA SINGS SINATRA

Singapore singer and actress Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai (right) digs deep into Frank Sinatra's extensive repertoire and will put her own spin on some of Ol' Blue Eyes' classics, such as I've Got You Under My Skin, Come Fly With Me and My Way. The show is directed by singer and entertainment veteran Jacintha Abisheganaden. WHERE: Esplanade Recital Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive MRT: Esplanade WHEN: Thursday and Jan 18, 7.30pm

ADMISSION: \$35, go to

sangeethasings.peatix.com



*SCAPE INVASION **BACK-TO-SCHOOL FESTIVAL**

Having done more than 100 shows in schools all over Singapore, the *Scape Invasion movement celebrates its fifth anniversary with a public concert featuring established and up-and-coming home-grown music talents.

On the bill are acts including acclaimed singer-songwriters Charlie Lim and Inch Chua, post-hardcore band Caracal and rising rappers Fariz Jabba and Yung Raja (above left and

Gig-goers are encouraged to dress in school-inspired outfits and can take part in contests as well as check out the food, drinks and activity booths. WHERE: *Scape Indoor Ground

Theatre, 2 Orchard Link MRT: Somerset WHEN: Tomorrow, 5 to 11pm ADMISSION: Free and ticketed, from \$5. For details and line-up, go to scapeinvasionbtsfest.peatix.com





'S... TAEYEON CONCERT IN SINGAPORE

South Korean singer Taeyeon (above), leader of K-pop icons Girls' Generation, will stage her first solo concert in Singapore. While her group found global success in the late 2000s, Taeyeon embarked on her solo career in 2015. Her concert is part of an Asian tour that includes stops in Bangkok and Manila. WHERE: Singapore Expo Hall 1,

1Expo Drive MRT: Expo WHEN: Tomorrow, 6pm ADMISSION: From \$148 via Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg)

PHOTOS: BOBAN JAMES, DIOS VINCOY JR FOR THE STRAITS TIMES, HALLYUPOPFEST, LUNARIN



LUNARIN - INTO THE ETHER EP RELEASE SHOW

Home-grown alternative rock veterans Lunarin (left) are back after a six-year hiatus with a new EP, Into The Ether. They will launch it with a gig featuring new songs as well as some of their old ones. The show will also feature artwork from Clare Lee, the artist behind the EP artwork. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to migrant workers charity Home (Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics). WHERE: Esplanade Annexe Studio, 1Esplanade Drive MRT: Esplanade WHEN: Tomorrow, 8pm ADMISSION: \$21.19, go to www.eventbrite.sg

while leveraging its strengths. WHERE: Iseas Seminar Rooms 1 & 2. Iseas-Yusof Ishak Institute, 30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace **MRT**: Kent Ridge WHEN: Today, 10 - 11.30am

ADMISSION: Free INFO: www.iseas.edu.sg

Critical Conversations: The Heart Of Mathematics

Drama Box artistic director Kok Heng Leun and Dr Pablo Suarez (artist-in-residence, NUS-Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk) discuss how mathematics has informed their aesthetics and the work that they do in raising awareness about critical issues facing the world today. WHERE: NUS Museum, 50 Kent Ridge Crescent MRT: Kent Ridge WHEN: Thu, 7.30pm ADMISSION: Free, go to tinyurl.com/nusheartmath

Revival Of Chinese Opera In Singapore

Chua Soo Pong, an ethnomusicologist, playwright, director and choreographer, will talk about how Chinese opera has overcome its decline and is set to flourish in Singapore in the decades

WHERE: Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place MRT: Raffles Place WHEN: Jan 21, 11am ADMISSION: Free TEL: 6337-3685 INFO: www.fom.sg

Top 10 Travel Experiences

For 2019 Discover more travel destinations and experiences for the year ahead with Straits Times travel writer Lee Siew Hua, whose travels have taken her to all seven continents. She has filed stories on Antarctica, a great

white shark cage-dive in Australia and a road trip to the far western edge of China. She has also written on politics and religion. Previously based in Washington, she established the paper's United States Bureau and later joined the World Bank as a consultant. She has also worked in Bangkok as a foreign correspondent. WHERE: Programme Zone, Central Public Library, National Library, 100 Victoria Street MRT: City Hall/ Bugis WHEN: Jan 25, 7 - 8pm (registration starts at 6pm) ADMISSION: Free, go to str.sg/askSiewHua2

CLASSES

Special Effects Make-up Workshop

In this hands-on workshop led by Makeup Maestro's lead artist Valda, learn to create realistic wounds and scars using household products and special-effects modelling wax. WHERE: Workshop Space 1 & 2, Level 2 SAM at 8Q, 8 Queen Street MRT: Bras Basah WHEN: Jan 18 & 25, 7 - 8.30pm ADMISSION: \$30, tickets from www.apactix.com

Ikebana Chinese New Year Workshop

The facilitator, Ho Hin Shing from Hong Kong, started learning the art of ikebana at the Sogetsu School in 1979. In 1988, he was awarded the Teacher's Diploma of Sogetsu School, and in 2008, he was awarded the highest qualification of Teacher's

Diploma First Grade Riji of Sogetsu School. For both qualifications, he was the youngest teacher in Hong Kong to attain them.

WHERE: Japanese Association Singapore, 120 Adam Road MRT: Botanic Gardens WHEN: Jan 24, 11am - 1pm ADMISSION: \$80 (members) & \$100 (non-members) INFO: E-mail ii135rsvp@gmail.com

Tapestry Weaving Workshop In this three-hour class, learn to

repurpose an old blouse or a ragged pair of pants into yarn that will be weaved into a one-of-a-kind wall art piece. Learn basic weaving techniques, make tassels and fringes and take home a weaving loom kit (worth \$59) to continue creating more art pieces. WHERE: Citizen Farm, 60 Jalan

Penjara MRT: Queenstown **WHEN:** Jan 26, 2 - 5pm ADMISSION: \$79 a person INFO: E-mail events@ ediblegardencity.com or go to citizenfarm.com.sg/shop

Wonders Of The Voice -Voice Training Course

Learn to project, pronounce, inflect, emote, modulate, breathe right for vocal resonance, change up your accent or neutralise it to sound more international. Participants will also learn to bring characters to life with just their voices through script analysis and try out voice-over and voice acting lines. WHERE: Changi Simei Community Building, 10 Simei Street 2 MRT: Simei WHEN: Jan 27, 10am - 5.30pm ADMISSION: \$240 - \$250 (SkillsFuture claimable), sign up by Jan 20 at onepa.sg/class/details/c026691126 INFO: wondersofthevoice.com

SPORTS

SMBC Singapore Open **Golf Tournament**

The US\$1-million (S\$1.35-million) tournament will feature players such as defending champion Sergio Garcia from Spain, who played a starring role for Europe in this year's Ryder Cup, as well as top golfers from the Asian and Japan Tours.

WHERE: Serapong Course, Sentosa Golf Club, 27 Bukit Manis Road MRT: HarbourFront WHEN: Thu -Jan 20, from 7am ADMISSION: \$20 -\$30 (season: \$60): VIP \$450 - \$700 (season: \$1,800), go to apactix.com

Stadion/Kids Spartan Race Spartan Race is one of the world's

best-known obstacle course races,

with more than 240 races in 25 countries around the world. The Stadion race is run over 5km with 20 obstacles, while the Kids Race will be between 800m (four - six years old) to 3.2km (10 - 13 years old). Family packages are available. WHERE: National Stadium, Singapore Sports Hub, 1 Stadium Drive MRT: Stadium WHEN: Jan 26, from 7.30am ADMISSION: Stadion: \$165 -\$175; Kids Race: \$80; parent & child: \$208; register at spartanrace.sg INFO: info@sg.spartan.com

running, seeks to honour the positive impact made by Singaporeans and celebrate the triumph of the human spirit

PRESENTED BY

Teo You Yenn

UBS

Sociology researcher Teo You Yenn published a book of essays on the lives of people who live in HDB rental flats. This Is What Inequality Looks Like is a bestseller that has sparked a national conversation on socio-economic inequality in Singapore.

Read about the other finalists at str.sg/soty2018 and tell us who should be the Singaporean of the Year 2018 by Jan 15, 6pm

THE STRAITS TIMES

SINGAPOREAN

OF THE YEAR 2018

The Straits Times Singaporean of the Year award,

organised in partnership with UBS for the fourth year

Cast your vote now at str.sg/soty18vote

Terms and conditions apply

Tan Hsueh Yun Food Editor recommends



ST PHOTOS: TAN HSUEH YUN

CHICKEN MASTER

Some hawkers close shop and disappear into the ether, leaving huge gaps in our lives. I think wistfully of that really good wonton mee in Rowell Road, and beautiful glutinous rice in Chinatown, both gone forever.

My friend had a similar gap in his life when a favourite soya sauce chicken stall in Tiong Bahru closed. But then C found it again, quite by chance, at Chinatown Complex. Hong Kong chef, Wong Keung, 60, worked elsewhere in Singapore, and then in Indonesia, before setting up Yuan Lang Soy Sauce Chicken Master in April last

Prices start at \$3 for a plate of soya sauce chicken with noodles or rice. We go for half a white chicken and half a soya sauce chicken (\$12 each, \$24 for the whole bird).

Although they look like garden variety chicken rice chicken, the white version tastes like a salt-baked bird. Yes, it is salted before cooking and that treatment firms up the meat and deepens the flavour. Ask for a bit of the cooking liquid. It is startlingly salty, but the chicken essence is also



intense and so delicious drizzled on

Velvety describes the soya sauce version, even the chicken breast. Of all the stalls in Chinatown Complex that serve this dish, the only one that is on a par is from Fatty Ox. WHERE: Yuan Lang Soy Sauce Chicken

Master, 02-215 Chinatown Complex Food Centre, 335 Smith Street MRT: Chinatown OPEN: 8am to 7pm, or until the food is sold out (Thursdays to Tuesdays), closed Wednesdays

BURGER IN THE 'BURBS

My friend has been raving about the cheese burgers from Hammee's, a new stall at Commonwealth Crescent Market & Food Centre. S is so nuts about them he eats one pretty much

every day. So of course, I had to go try it. Two very perky people, Kelvin Hong, 31, and Vivian Tan, 25, run the stall, which opened on Nov 29. They used to sell white beehoon at another hawker centre and boy, am I glad they decided to sell burgers instead.

The Hammee's Signature Beef Cheeseburger (\$6) is simple but perfectly done. I hang around to watch Mr Hong cook it.

A patty made with a combination of ground brisket and chuck goes on the griddle, then he squirts some beef tallow, rendered in-house, on it. This is tremendous because beef fat gives the thin patty flavour like you will not believe. After flipping it, more tallow goes on the patty. Then he lifts it onto a metal rack, the kind bakers would use to cool a cake, and slaps on a slice of American cheese. A metal wok cover goes over the whole thing.

That step ensures that the cheese wraps around the patty.

"Try it at home," he says. I just might. Then the patty is placed on a bun spread with "mayo and secret ingredients", and topped with caramelised onions.

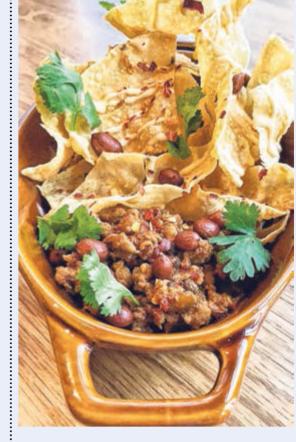
Ah, that first bite is phenomenal. The bun is squishy, but has a crackle on the outside. Then comes a flood of luscious flavours, from onions, cheese, beef and beef fat melding together. Squishy bread and thin patties do not usually thrill me, but what makes this burger worth eating is how well all these humble parts come together.

I wonder if they can be persuaded to cook the fries, served alongside the burger, in tallow too

Another must-order is Hammee's Signature Wings (\$4 for five). The mid-joint wings are small, but pack in a lot of flavour. Mostly it comes from fish sauce, which gives the wings deep umami. A lot more garlic, and perhaps a little more spice, would make these great wings even better.

It is tempting to talk up young hawkers because so few people want to enter what seems like a dying trade. Some don't make the grade, let's face it. But I'll give the owners of Hammee's an A+. WHERE: Hammee's, 02-93

 ${\sf Commonwealth\,Crescent\,Market\,\&}$ Food Centre, 31 Commonwealth Crescent MRT: Commonwealth **OPEN:** 11am to 5pm (Tuesdays to Sundays), closed Mondays INFO: www.facebook.com/Hammees-346775019221224/



SMALL BITES. BIG FLAVOUR

There are times when I need to flee the office and go someplace chill at lunch time. You lucky people who work in the CBD have Relish at Frasers Tower, newly opened and such a green, comfortable refuge from the cares of the work day.

It is open all day, so drop by for coffee in the late morning, then lunch, then cake and tea, then drinks and snacks, and then dinner.

Pasta, burgers and rice bowls dominate the menu, but I zoom in on the For Sharing part for bright, vivid eats. The flavours are familiar, but chef Willin Low has a way of giving his food interesting twists.

Start with Ma La Papadam Nachos (\$8.50), featuring crisp papadam and minced chicken with plenty of numbing action from the Sichuan peppercorns. You know I am a chilli coward, but I ate pretty much the whole serving without melting. Win. Tandoori Papadam Nachos (\$8.50), featuring minced lamb with more spice than heat, are similarly compelling.

Kaki Furai (\$16) stars juicy Japanese oysters, under a crisp and greaseless panko crust. The green curry mayonnaise needs more character though. I cannot get enough of Har Jeong Gai (\$8.50), which is not prawn paste chicken. Instead, thinly sliced pork belly, marinated with shrimp paste, is cooked until crisp like keropok. I challenge you to stop at one.

If the har cheong frog's legs are on the specials menu, order them. The meaty legs are also marinated with shrimp paste, then deep fried. Gutsy flavour and juicy meat. This is my favourite dish at Relish. WHERE: Relish at Frasers Tower, 02-12/13 Frasers Tower, 182 Cecil Street MRT: Tanjong Pagar TEL: 6904-5458 OPEN: 11am to 10pm (Mondays to Fridays), 10am to 3pm (Saturdays), closed Sundays

SERIOUS PHO

Eating at SG Pho House can be a little unnerving. The owners, Singaporean Simon Hear, 52, and his Vietnamese wife Tina, 38, hover when you peruse the menu. They hover when you slurp your food. All they really want, though, is to know if you are enjoying your meal

There is a lot to like about what they serve in their four-month-old

Beef bones simmered for 10 hours make a fine broth for Pho Dac Biet (\$9.90), which has slices of brisket, beef balls and thin slices of beef. The noodles are thicker than I would like, but this means they stand up well to the hot broth. The bowl is steaming hot and very comforting. There are other variations of beef pho, but this one comes with a little bowl of the beef broth and an egg yolk, like in serious pho houses in Australia. The broth is the same, a hovering Mr Hear says, but it has a cleaner finish before the yolk is mixed in.

There is no way I am going to ignore blood cockles on any menu, so I also : order So Huyet Xao Toi (\$6.90), the



These large cockles hit the spot and it is worth the trouble of shucking them. I just wish the lard was crisp. But then I might have devoured all those many pieces. WHERE: SG Pho House, 774 North Bridge Road MRT: Bugis

TEL: 6299-8774

OPEN: 11am to 10pm daily

: INFO: www.facebook.com/RelishFrasers/

FOOD

PROMOTIONS

Heritage Dishes With Zander Ng At Clifford Pier

MasterChef Zander Ng takes over the kitchen at The Clifford Pier with his take on Singapore's heritage dishes, including Har Cheong Calamari, Cider-brined Kurobuta Pork Chop and Sticky Date Pudding With Five-Spice. WHERE: The Fullerton Bay Hotel, 80 Collyer Quay MRT: Raffles Place WHEN: Till Jan 26, noon - 2.30pm (Mon - Fri), 6.30 - 10.30pm (Mon - Sat) PRICE: A la carte: from \$21++, set lunch: \$59++, set dinner: \$69++ -\$79++**TEL**: 6597-5266 INFO: fullertonhotels.com

Grand Hyatt Launches

Plant-based Beyond Sausage Expanding its range of plant-based options, Grand Hyatt Singapore is launching Beyond Sausage with Green Monday. The 100 per cent plant-based, non-GMO, glutenand soya-free sausage is made of peas, fava beans, rice, beet and coconut oil. Each sausage contains more protein and less fat (total and saturated) than traditional sausages. WHERE: Hotel Driveway, Grand Hyatt Singapore, 10 Scotts Road MRT: Orchard WHEN: Thu - Jan 19, noon - 9pm **PRICE**: \$8++ (\$18++ from Jan 21 at Oasis) **TEL**: 6732-1234 **INFO:** singapore.grand.hyatt.com

The Best Of Hokkaido

At Keyaki Keyaki at Pan Pacific Singapore will present two seven-course kaiseki presentations by executive chef Shinichi Nakatake. Highlights include king or snow crab and grilled or simmered kinki fish - one of Hokkaido's premium specialities as the chilly waters allow the fish to develop a delicate layer of fat that gives the meat a sweeter flavour and tender texture. Other seafood highlights include Hokkaido scallop, fresh uni (sea urchin) and anglerfish. WHERE: Level 4 Pan Pacific Singapore, 7 Raffles Boulevard MRT: Promenade WHEN: Tue - Feb 28 (lunch & dinner)

PRICE: Set menus: \$190++ - \$210++ a person: a la carte also available **TEL**: 6826-8240 INFO: E-mail dining.sin@ panpacific.com

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Prosperity Yu Sheng

At Se7enth The prosperity yusheng from Se7enth at Oakwood Premier OUE Singapore comes in two sizes. Paired with ingredients such as smoked salmon, smoked snow fish and crispy fish skin and served with housemade sweet plum sauce, the yusheng is available for dine-in or takeaway (it is advisable to order three days in advance). WHERE: 07-01 OUE Downtown 1,

6 Shenton Way MRT: Tanjong Pagar **WHEN**: Jan 21 - Feb 19 PRICE: \$38.80+/++ (serves up to four people) - \$68.80+/++ (for six - eight people) TEL: 6812-6050 INFO: E-mail dining.opsg@oakwood.com

Thye Moh Chan's Handcrafted **Festive Treats**

Teochew confectionery Thye Moh Chan offers a selection of traditional handcrafted pastries, cakes, goodies and hampers for Chinese New Year. One highlight is the new Golden Yam Mochi (\$3 a piece, \$12 a box of four pieces), a pastry with yam filling and black sugar mochi wrapped in a fluffy buttery pastry. Other items include Auspicious Fish, a jelly filled with osmanthus flower, dried longan and wolfberries in the shape of a koi (\$18.80); Thye Moh Chan's signature creation, gula melaka pineapple pastry (\$12 a box of six pieces); bak kwa tau sar piah (\$2.50 each, \$13.80 a box of six pieces); and Gui Yuan Cake (\$12.80). WHERE (MRT): B1-12 Paragon, 290 Orchard Road (Orchard); 01-45 Chinatown Point, 133 New Bridge Road (Chinatown) WHEN: Till Feb 19, 10am - 10pm daily PRICE: Pastries: from \$2.50 a piece; others: \$12.80 - \$18.80; hampers: \$168 - \$298 TEL: 6732-8858 (Paragon)/6604-8858 (Chinatown Point) INFO: thyemohchan.com

Harmony, Wonderful And

Happiness Sets From Shao Teochew restaurant Shao is offering three set lunch and dinner menus for Chinese New Year – all with prosperity abalone yusheng and suckling pig. Similar items appearing in two of the sets include cold crab, steamed pomfret, eight treasure rice in Teochew style and eight treasure vegetables. Dishes served with only one of the sets are steamed red grouper, roast chicken and chilled mango cream with pomelo (Harmony set); abalone with Chinese mushrooms and spinach, stir-fried broccoli with scallops and orh nee (Wonderful set); and braised shark's fin and almond with peach gum (Happiness set). WHERE: 117 Frankel Avenue

MRT: Kembangan WHEN: Jan 29 -Feb 4, Feb 7 - 19: Mon - Thu, 11am -3pm, 5pm - 11pm; Fri - Sat, 10am - 3pm, 5pm - midnight; Sun, 10am - 11pm **PRICE:** \$68++ - \$118++ a person TEL: 6610-9233 INFO: E-mail info@shao.sg

Prosperity Hua Ting Goodies

Toss to a better year with award-winning Hua Ting masterchefs' yusheng creation – smoked salmon yusheng with organic seasonal greens and red plum sauce (\$88+ for small/\$148+ for large). There are also live Australian lobster, salmon roe and abalone yusheng (\$588+ for 10 people), fresh toro yusheng (\$198+/\$388+), sliced abalone yusheng (\$78+/\$138+), fresh hamachi yusheng (\$78+/\$138+) and fresh salmon yusheng (\$68+/\$118+). Other signature favourites include pen cai (\$328+/\$598+), golden pumpkin cake with organic black garlic and Chinese sausage (\$42+) and carrot cake with abalone (\$78+).

WHERE: Level 2 Orchard Hotel Singapore, 442 Orchard Road MRT: Orchard WHEN: Jan 21 - Feb 19 PRICE: \$42+ - \$598+ TEL: 6739-6666 INFO: E-mail huating.ohs@ millenniumhotels.com

Reunion Lunch/Dinner Buffet At Window On The Park

The Chinese New Year reunion lunch and dinner buffets at Window On The

Park at Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre feature various traditional Chinese cooking techniques. Besides salmon yusheng, there are roasted duck with plum sauce, crispy seabass with Thai chilli sauce and steamed glutinous rice in lotus leaf with Chinese wax meat. Other favourites include grilled pork belly, wok-fried beef with ginger and spring onion. Yang Zhou fried rice. Singapore laksa, roasted chicken with five spiced salt and Cantonese char siew pizza from the Fortune Pizza

station. WHERE: Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre, 11 Cavenagh Road MRT: Somerset/Dhoby Ghaut WHEN/PRICE: Jan 22 - Feb 1, Feb 7 -20; lunch, noon - 2.30pm: \$65++ a person; dinner, 6.30 - 10pm: \$70++ (Mon - Thu), \$96++ (Fri - Sun), Feb 2 - 6: \$104++; all one-for-one pricing **TEL:** 6733-8333 **INFO:** E-mail fnb.hisinorchard@ihg.com

Mui Kee's New Festive Specialities

Hong Kong Cantonese congee eatery Mui Kee has introduced three new dishes for the festive season. Fortune congee (\$10.90) contains dried mussels and moss. Reap An Abundant Harvest (\$16.80) is a medley of lotus root, carrot, snow pea, celery, baby corn, woodear mushroom and red bell pepper stewed and served in a piping-hot claypot. Treasure Seafood Pot (\$68.80) comes with abalone, Alaskan crab legs, Hokkaido scallops, dried mussels, mushrooms and moss. WHERE: 01-12 Shaw Centre, 1 Scotts Road MRT: Orchard WHEN: Till Feb 28 (closed on Feb 4 & 5); Mon - Fri, 11.30am - 3pm, 6 - 10pm; Sat, Sun & public holidays, 11.30am - 9.30pm **PRICE:** \$10.90 - \$68.80 TEL: 6737-2422 INFO: E-mail muikee@lesamis.com.sg

Pinnacles Of Prosperity Take-Home Treats From **Hotel Fort Canning**

The culinary team at Hotel Fort Canning has created the Prosciutto di Parma Prosperity Fruit Yu Sheng (\$188+) by incorporating the prized prosciutto into a fruit-centric yusheng dish with finely sliced parma ham. Other versions are Signature

Fortune Salmon Yu Sheng (\$48+ -\$68+), Signature Golden Prosperity Fruit Yu Sheng (\$88+) and Oceans of Prosperity Premium Yu Sheng (\$328+). Other highlights are the Blossoms of Abundance Treasure Pot (\$388+), while takeaway favourites include Golden Crispy Suckling Pig (\$388+) and Imperial Herbal Roast Duck (\$68+).

WHERE: The Salon, Hotel Fort Canning, 11 Canning Walk MRT: Fort Canning WHEN: Till Feb 19, collection: 11am -7pm daily PRICE: Yusheng: \$48+ -\$328+; others: \$28+ - \$388+ **TEL**: 6559-6796 **INFO**: E-mail thesalon@hfcsingapore.com

WINE EVENTS

Cape Mentelle Wines And The Signature Cuisine Of Yantra

North Indian restaurant Yantra's extensive menu is designed with the freshest, hand-picked spices flown in from India regularly. Tuck into traditional favourites such as Chicken Tikka and Martabaan Ka Meat, accompanied by the wines of Cape Mentelle.

WHERE: 01-28/33 Tanglin Mall, 163 Tanglin Road MRT: Orchard WHEN: Jan 30,7pm PRICE: \$79++ a person (\$63.20++ for HSBC cardholders) TEL: 6319-4038 (weekdays, 9am - 6pm) INFO: E-mail asianmasters@sph.com.sg

The Cuisine Of Chef Mirko Vinci With The Iconic Wines Of Sicilia And Toscana

Grissini is a contemporary Italian grill restaurant that specialises in premium meats and seafood. Its oven, which combines a grill and oven into one, gives classic Italian favourites a twist with a Grissini flair. Indulge in a five-course menu specially crafted by head chef Mirko Vinci, who hails from the Puglia region in southern Italy accompanied by the iconic wines of Sicily and Toscana. Waterfront Hotel, 392 Havelock Road

WHERE: Grissini, Grand Copthorne MRT: Outram Park WHEN: Jan 31,7pm **PRICE**: \$145++ a person (\$116++ for HSBC cardholders) TEL: 6319-4038 (weekdays, 9am - 6pm) INFO: E-mail gustoitaliano@sph.com.sg

ARTS

AUDITIONS

Open Call For Strings For Kindness

Strings For Kindness, an ensemble of young string players who aim to inspire graciousness through kind acts and music playing, is calling for young violinists – primary school pupils or other violinists – to audition for a chance to join the ensemble.

WHERE: Multi-purpose Room,
8@Mt Sophia MRT: Dhoby Ghaut
WHEN: Jan 19, 5.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: facebook.com/
StringsForKindness

BOOKS

Book Launch: The Future Is Asian By Parag Khanna

The book is a definitive guide to Asia's global influence in the 21st century, with detailed analysis, data and maps of Asia's major markets as well as their combined impact on the global economy, society and governance. Author Parag Khanna will share his insights and more about the book.

WHERE: Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20/21 Ngee Ann City (Takashimaya Shopping Centre), 391 Orchard Road MRT: Orchard WHEN: Tomorrow, 2pm

ADMISSION: Free TEL: 6737-5021 INFO: kinokuniya.com.sg

Arthur Conan Doyle's The Adventure Of The Final Problem

First published in 1893, The Adventure Of The Final Problem is about Sherlock Holmes' supposed last case and is recounted by his friend and assistant, Dr John Watson. Join Dr Gwee Li Sui as he unveils the significance of this story. The talk is part of the National Library Board's How To Fall In Love With Classics (Short Stories) lecture series. WHERE: Programme Zone, Central Public Library, Basement 1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street MRT: City Hall/Bugis WHEN: Jan 24, 7-8.30pm ADMISSION: Free, register at nlb.gov.sg/golibrary INFO: E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Flagship Genius 80 Featuring Angkor Wat III

This double-bill exhibition comprises the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' (Nafa) annual instalment of Flagship Genius as well as the third and final instalment on Angkor Wat. The exhibition features the school's talent from the Fine Art, 3D Design, Design & Media and Fashion Studies programmes, as well as students' output from the school-wide project on Angkor Wat. WHERE: The Ngee Ann Kongsi Galleries 1 & 2, Nafa Campus 1, 80 Bencoolen Street MRT: Bencoolen WHEN: Today - Feb 10, 11am - 7pm (closed on Mon & public holidays) ADMISSION: Free INFO: nafa.edu.sg

Contending Boundaries: Tang Da Wu, Wong Keen & Yeo Hoe Koon

This is a showcase of more than 60 works by Singapore artists
Tang Da Wu, Wong Keen and Yeo Hoe Koon from the 1960s to last year.
There will also be a talk on Wong and his dynamic visual language by Artcommune's curator Ma Peiyi.

WHERE: Artspace @ Helutrans,
39 Keppel Road MRT: Tanjong Pagar WHEN (ADMISSION): Exhibition:
tomorrow - Jan 31, noon - 7pm (free); art talk: Sun, 4.30 - 6pm (\$25 a person); e-mail valerie@
artcommune.com.sg to register for the talk

Elements Of Chinese Calligraphy – Solo Exhibition By Tan Oe Pang

After his last Chinese calligraphy solo show in 2015, Tan Oe Pang returns with a three-part exhibition series featuring 91 works. He uses calligraphy to write phrases in Malay, Tamil, Japanese and Korean as well as the Chinese dialects in Singapore – a highlight of this series that is now in its final chapter. WHERE: Sky One Art Gallery, 09-02 Breadtalk IHQ, 30 Tai Seng Street MRT: Tai Seng WHEN: Thu, Jan 19, Jan 21 - 26, Jan 28 - 31 (11am - 6.30pm; Sat till 6pm) **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL**: 6444-9364 **INFO**: E-mail info@skyoneartgallery.com or

Reunite 2019 Affordable Art Fair's Young Talent Programme Alumni Exhibition

go to skyoneart.com

The seventh edition of the programme will feature the works of winners from the first three editions – Alecia Neo, Lavender Chang, Vellachi Ganesan, Hilmi Johandi, Noor Iskandar, Khin Thethtar Latt, Ezekiel Wong Kelwin and Zhang Fuming. This exhibition is also part of lon Orchard's 10th anniversary.

WHERE: Ion Art, Level 4 Ion Orchard, 2 Orchard Turn MRT: Orchard WHEN: Thu (noon - 10pm), Jan 18 - 27 (10am - 10pm) ADMISSION: Free INFO: affordableartfair.com/fairs

Art Apart Fair

The 11th edition of the fair, as part of Singapore Art Week, introduces budding artists from Singapore, France and Myanmar. The works will be installed in the living space of a colonial black-and-white bungalow, where the exhibition will be held.

WHERE: 18 Temenggong Road

MRT: HarbourFront WHEN: Jan 18, 6.30 - 9pm; Jan 19 - 28, noon - 5.30pm

ADMISSION: Free TEL: 9634-9797

INFO: E-mail artapartfair@gmail.com

Of Wax, Dyes And Labour

In conjunction with Singapore Art Week, this visual art exhibition is presented by Fajrina Razak, in her first curatorial project, and her fellow artists. The show is a culmination of the artists experimenting with the dynamics of the traditional art form, batik.

WHERE: Malay Heritage Centre, 85 Sultan Gate MRT: Bugis

WHEN: Jan 19 - Feb 9, 10am - 6pm (closed on Mon) ADMISSION: Free INFO: www.artweek.sg

Supper Club: Alvin Ong's Solo Exhibition

Singaporean artist Alvin Ong's first solo exhibition at Yavuz Gallery is held in conjunction with Singapore Art Week. It debuts his latest series of paintings that explore the body's appetites in works redolent with black humour. At the age of 16, Ong became the youngest winner of the UOB Painting of the Year Award in 2005. WHERE: Yavuz Gallery, 02-23 Gillman Barracks, 9 Lock Road MRT: Labrador Park WHEN: Jan 23 (6 - 9pm); Jan 24 - Feb 23: 11am - 7pm (Tue - Sat), 1-5pm (Sun) ADMISSION: Free TEL: 6734-3262 INFO: E-mail info@yavuzgallery.com

THEATRE

Three Women Of Tagore

Tagore Society presents this musical theatre of three iconic characters from Rabindranath Tagore's stories in a modern and contemporary light. The characters, played by three upcoming actresses from Mumbai's Theatre and TV world, traverse the centuries and explore issues faced by the women of the 21st century.

WHERE: RELC, 30 Orange Grove Road MRT: Stevens/Orchard WHEN: Jan 25, 7.30pm ADMISSION: \$30 - \$50, tickets from Dolly Davenport or eventbrite.sg

TEL: 9345-6915 INFO: E-mail dollysinhadavenport@gmail.com

Homesick

King Edward VII HallPlay 18/19 presents this work by home-grown writer-playwright Alfian Sa'at set in 2003 Singapore, when the Sars outbreak forced the long-detached Koh family together. It tackles the issue of immigration, ultimately leaving the audience to ponder the true meaning of belonging in modern-day Singapore. WHERE: NUS University Cultural Centre Theatre, 50 Kent Ridge Crescent MRT: Kent Ridge WHEN: Jan 25, 7pm; Jan 26, 1.30 &7pm **ADMISSION**: \$20 a ticket (\$85 for five tickets) INFO: facebook.com/KEhallplay

Catamite By Loo Zihan

This intimate interactive experience begins in the form of an artist lecture and dialogue where Loo will share his experiences of staging his installation, Queer Objects: An Archive For The Future (2016), an assemblage of objects for a hypothetical queer archive in Singapore. The audience-participants will then join him in a series of participatory activities and conversation. WHERE: Centre 42 Black Box, 42 Waterloo Street MRT: Bencoolen/ Bras Basah WHEN: Jan 25 (7 & 9pm), Jan 26 (1, 3, 7 & 9pm), Jan 27 (1 & 3pm) **ADMISSION:** \$19 - \$27 TEL: 6440-8115 INFO: E-mail info@singaporefringe.com

The Tragedy Of Hamlet, Prince

Of Denmark

The Tragedy Of Hamlet, Prince Of Denmark is a new Chinese translation of Hamlet, specially commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) as part of the Shakespeare Folio Translation Project, with the aim of creating new accessible translations of Shakespeare's plays for Chinese audiences. Drawing on the expertise of the RSC and in the company of fellow theatre practitioners from Britain and China, translator Li Jianming delivers a nuanced script straight from the rehearsal room for a modern audience.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1Esplanade Drive MRT: Esplanade/ City Hall WHEN: Feb 15 & 16 (8pm), Feb 17 (2.30pm) ADMISSION: \$38 -\$138; VIP meet-and-greet: \$148 INFO: www.esplanade.com

ST PHOTO: ERNEST LUIS



Akshita Nanda Arts Correspondent recommends

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR: FLY WITH ME

The world-famous choir from Austria includes boys aged nine to 14, who are chosen to sing before their voices break. In this concert, they will perform classics such as Claudio Monteverdi's Ave Maria, and Sanctus and

Benedictus from Jacobus de Kerle's Missa Regina Coeli. WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive MRT: City Hall/ Esplanade WHEN: Tomorrow, 7.30pm ADMISSION: \$35 to \$95 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg) INFO: svbc.city



IN AN INSTANT: POLAROID AT THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Snap, shake and see. The gratifyingly quick images produced by Polaroid cameras revolutionised home photography and art-making.

This exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore examines the history and impact of the Polaroid camera (above), including the connection to today's smartphone cameras and social media.

WHERE: Exhibition Gallery 2,
Basement Level, National Museum of
Singapore, 93 Stamford Road
MRT: Dhoby Ghaut WHEN: Until
March 31, 10am to 7pm daily
ADMISSION: \$12.50 for Singaporeans
and permanent residents (includes
entry to permanent galleries),
\$18 for foreigners (exhibition only).
Concessions available for seniors
and students. Free for children
aged six and younger
INFO: www.nationalmuseum.sg



SSO RED BALLOON SERIES: REICH IN 60 MINUTES

Influential American composer Steve Reich (above) has found music in noise made by construction and door slamming as well as conventional musical instruments.

Get to know his work in an hour-long concert under the baton of American conductor and composer Brad Lubman. This is the first in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra's new SSO Red Balloon Series, which presents music that defies genres and breaks boundaries in the concert hall. WHERE: Victoria Concert Hall, 9 Empress Place MRT: City Hall/ Raffles Place WHEN: Tomorrow, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$18 to \$48 from Sistic, redballoon.org.sg or sso.org.sg INFO: There will be a pre-concert talk at 6.30pm at the VCH Music Studio on level 3

OMM GOES TO THE MOVIES 3

Led by conductor Seow Yibin, the Orchestra of the Music Makers (right) performs an evening of popular movie tunes.

Familiar favourites include
Howard Shore's music from
The Lord Of The Rings trilogy (2001,
2002, 2003), John Williams'
compositions for Star Wars:
The Last Jedi (2017) and
Alan Silvestri's theme for
The Avengers (2012).
WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall,
1Esplanade Drive MRT: City Hall/
Esplanade WHEN: Today, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: \$24 to \$37 from
Sistic

PHOTOS: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE, YONG JUNYI, WONGE BERGMANN, WWW.LUKASBECK.COM



THE LIBRARY BOOK SUSAN RLEAN RLEAN

Bookmark This! A library on fire, haunting by a woman in black

Join Life reporters Toh Wen Li and Olivia Ho (both left) in this new monthly podcast by The Straits Times, in which they talk about books in the headlines and recommend new reads.

In this episode, they chat about The Library Book by Susan Orlean, an investigation into the 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire and a love letter to libraries everywhere; and Melmoth by Sarah Perry, a neo-Gothic novel in which the guilty are haunted through history by a woman in black.

Produced by: Olivia Ho, Toh Wen Li and Ernest Luis Feedback to: podcast@sph.com.sg Download ST & BT podcasts for offline listening: str.sg/stbtpodcasts On website: str.sg/stpodcasts On Spotify: str.sg/oeGg On iTunes: str.sg/oeXN On Google podcasts: str.sg/oeLG





JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

Opening the Japanese Film Festival this year is the zombie comedy One Cut Of The Dead (2017, above), an indie film which went on to make more than 250 times its production budget of 3 million yen (\$\$38,000) in Japan.

The film, about a director who chooses to keep the cameras rolling even when the cast are being ravaged by zombies, was also a surprise hit in Hong Kong and Taiwan due to its very meta sense of humour. Director Shinichirou Ueda will be in town for the opening.

Those who are not fans of zombie movies can look out for the other 30 Japanese films that will be shown at the festival, such as Lost In Ramen (2018), about three random strangers connected by their mutual love for a ramen stall, and The 8-Year Engagement (2017), a tearjerker based on a real story where a bride falls into a coma months before her wedding.

WHERE: Shaw Theatres Lido, Shaw House, 350 Orchard Road; The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road MRT: Orchard (Shaw Theatres Lido), Nicoll Highway (The Projector) WHEN: Jan 18 to Feb 10 ADMISSION: From \$13 a film, from www.shaw.sg and theprojector.sg



BLACK MIRROR: BANDERSNATCH (M18) 90 mins/Netflix

Set in the 1980s, Black Mirror: Bandersnatch is about a young programmer (Fionn Whitehead, above) who begins to question reality as he adapts a fantasy novel into a

The official running time of this unique interactive film is 90 minutes, but it could take up to three hours to complete. That is because in this special episode of Black Mirror, the critically acclaimed sci-fi series about the horrors of technology, viewers have to make decisions for the main character as the story develops, which will lead them down different paths.



CENTURY FOX,

NETFLIX, SHAW

ORGANISATION

SING-ALONG (M18) Part of the fun of watching Bohemian Rhapsody, the award-winning biopic about Freddie Mercury (Rami Malek, above), the late frontman of British rock band Queen, is to sing along to all of the

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

iconic group's tunes. Well, now you can do it out loud

and unabashedly at this special screening of the film, which will flash

the lyrics on-screen. Where: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road MRT: Nicoll Highway WHEN: Tomorrow, 8pm ADMISSION: \$13.50 from

theprojector.sg

FILMS

Florence Foster Jenkins (2016, PG)

In this comedy-drama, Meryl Streep plays New York socialite Florence Foster Jenkins, who in the 1940s dreams of becoming a great opera singer. Unfortunately, her ambition far exceeds her talent. The voice she hears in her head is beautiful, but to everyone else, it is awful. Her husband, St Clair Bayfield (Hugh Grant), goes to extreme lengths to hide the truth from his wife. When she announces her plans for a concert at Carnegie Hall, he realises that he is facing his greatest challenge yet. WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road MRT: Nicoll Highway WHEN: Wed, 7.40pm (Blue Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) INFO: the projector.sg

Outdoor Movie Screening: The Greatest Showman (2017, PG)

Bring a mat and picnic basket and enjoy this movie starring Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams and Zac Efron. The film celebrates the birth of show business and tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide

WHERE: SAM at 8Q Plaza, Singapore Art Museum, 8 Queen Street MRT: Bras Basah WHEN: Jan 19,8pm **ADMISSION:** Free INFO: singaporeartmuseum.sg

Salvador Dali: In Search Of Immortality (2018, NC16)

The documentary explores the Spanish artist's life, work and loves and those of Gala, his muse and collaborator. It begins in 1929, a crucial year in Dali's career and life, as he joined the surrealist movement and met Gala, and advances until the vear of his death in 1989. WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road MRT: Nicoll Highway WHEN: Jan 19,

5pm; Feb 2.5pm (Green Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) INFO: the projector.sg

Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (2019, PG)

Tchaikovsky's much-loved music is matched to a magical adventure on Christmas Eve for Clara and her Nutcracker doll. Their journey to the Land of Sweets brings with it some of the most familiar of all ballet moments, such as the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Waltz of the Flowers. Peter Wright's production for The Royal Ballet keeps true to the spirit of this Russian ballet classic. WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road MRT: Nicoll Highway WHEN: Jan 26, 4.30pm (Green Room) ADMISSION: \$25 (standard), \$23 (concession) INFO: the projector.sg

Leaning Into The Wind: Andy

Goldsworthy (2017, PG) An award-winning, globally celebrated artist, Andy Goldsworthy is known for both monumental works of land art and others that exist only briefly before being altered or erased by natural processes. Director Thomas Riedelsheimer intimately captures Goldsworthy's exploration of the world and himself through these ephemeral and permanent workings on the landscape, cities and his own body.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road MRT: Nicoll Highway WHEN: Jan 26 (Redrum) & Feb 10 (Green Room), 5.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) INFO: the projector.sg

TOURS

Seniors Day Out: Kopi, Teh & Contemporary Art

In this tour led by trained students who speak multiple languages, participants will gain a deeper understanding about the artworks in the Singapore Art Museum President's Young Talents

exhibition. The session will end with a fun hands-on workshop and light refreshments. WHERE: Gallery & Workshop Spaces,

SAM at 8Q. 8 Queen Street MRT: Bras Basah WHEN: Jan 19, 3 - 5.30pm ADMISSION: Free INFO: E-mail education@singaporeartmuseum.sg

KIDS

Badanamu At HarbourFront Centre

Characters from learning brand Badanamu come to life at HarbourFront Centre. There will be live performances by Bada and Jess, meet-and-greet sessions (weekends, 1 and 7pm) and Badanamu Cadets screenings (weekends, 5pm). Limited-edition Badanamu red packets and travel neck hoodie pillows are up for grabs. WHERE: HarbourFront Centre, 2 Maritime Square MRT: Harbour Front WHEN: Sat & Sun, till Feb 10; other activities: noon - 8pm daily ADMISSION: Free, minimum spending required for activities **INFO:** harbourfrontcentre.com.sg

NATURE

Birdwatching At Rifle Range

This is a good time to look for wintering birds like the Forest Wagtail, Arctic Warbler and the elusive Ferruginous Flycatcher. Participants will also search for resident birds such as the Asian Fairy Bluebird, Blue-winged Leafbird and Short-tailed Babbler. WHERE: Rifle Range, meet Tan Ju Lin at junction of Rifle Range and Dunearn roads MRT: Beauty World **WHEN:** Sun, 7.30 - 11am ADMISSION: For Nature Society (Singapore) members, go to nss.org.sg for membership details

A Walk With Your Neighbours:

The Monkeys Of Lower Peirce The long-tailed macaques are the most conspicuous animals at Lower Peirce. Although commonly seen, they are misunderstood. Like humans, these monkeys have kin networks, friends, foes, a complex social network and problems such as power struggles. The walk is led by experts from the Jane Goodall Institute Singapore.

WHERE: Lower Peirce Trail, Hevea Trail Entrance; meet at Lower Peirce Reservoir Park Carpark MRT: Marymount WHEN: Jan 19, 5 -

6.30pm ADMISSION: Free, register at nparks.gov.sg at least three days in advance **INFO**: E-mail sgmonkeywalk@gmail.com

OTHERS

Geddit! Pop-up Market

At this two-day pop-up market organised by a group of young aspiring entrepreneurs, local vendors will be selling various fashion products and accessories. There will also be performances from up-and-coming student artistes. WHERE: Youth Park Somerset (in front of the RedBox), 113 Somerset Road MRT: Somerset WHEN: Tomorrow -Sun, 11am - 9pm **ADMISSION**: Free TEL: 9711-0024 INFO: hellopoppinevents. wixsite.com/home

CNY Family Fun

At this event held at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC), families can enjoy fun activities such as a mass hunt for the God of Fortune, and workshops teaching upcycling, bento-making and lion dance. There will also be performances by local wind percussion ensemble Reverberance and a special exhibition by local illustrator Ah Guo. You can also redeem SCCC's first limited-edition "singing red packet", with an original soundtrack when you collect stamps by participating in the activities.

WHERE: Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, 1 Straits Boulevard MRT: Tanjong Pagar WHEN: Tomorrow

& Sun, 10am - 8pm ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** singaporeccc.org.sg

YMCA Outdoor Gear Sale & **Exchange**

YMCA Outdoor & Adventure has opened up its rustic rooftop terrace for the public to sell their unused/second-hand outdoor gear. WHERE: Level 9 Pool Terrace, YMCA of Singapore, 1 Orchard Road MRT: Dhoby Ghaut WHEN: Jan 19, 5.30 - 10pm **ADMISSION**: \$5 a person, text your name and e-mail address to 9660-5740 to sign up **INFO**: E-mail eunicechua@ymca.org.sg

LAST CALL

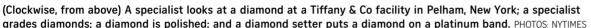
#OurHawkerCulture Photography Contest

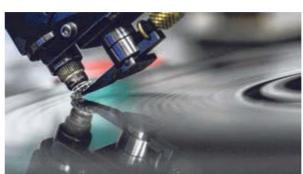
Send in your photographs that represent your pride in Singapore's hawker culture, together with a caption of at least 140 characters via Instagram with the hashtags #WhatMakesSG and #OurHawkerCulture. Tag and follow @natgeoasia and @gov.sg, and make your account public. Prizes include a trip for two to National Geographic Odyssey in New York City, a branded DSLR camera worth \$1,500, a Samsung S9+128 GB smartphone worth \$1,398, and Food Panda vouchers of between \$300 and \$1.000.

WHERE: Online WHEN: Entries close tomorrow, 11.59pm INFO: whatmakessg.com/contest

• The listings on these Happenings pages are free. Write to Life Happenings, Life, The Straits Times,1000 Toa Payoh North, Singapore 318994 or e-mail stlife@sph.com.sg at least two weeks ahead. Include the name of the event, organiser.venue.date and time.ticket prices and nearest MRT station, as well as your name, address and contact number. We reserve the right to edit or reject items. Go to www.straitstimes.com (click on Lifestyle) for more listings.









A Hamilton rescue plan for New York bookshop

NEW YORK • Lin-Manuel Miranda is already a composer, a lyricist, an actor and an author. Now he is going to be a bookseller.

Miranda and three of his Hamilton collaborators have purchased the Drama Book Shop, a century-old theatre district purveyor of scripts, sheet music and other stage-related reading material.

The surprise move is an effort to sustain the store, which is a mainstay of New York's theatre scene - in 2011, it was recognised with a Tony honour for excellence – but has struggled to survive the brutal Times Square real estate market and recently announced that it was being forced to move.

The rescue plan is a joint venture between the Hamilton team and the city, which has pledged to find the store an affordable space in Midtown.

"The store is a gem and a cultural institution in New York and we want to make sure it's saved," said Ms Julie Menin, the mayor's media and entertainment

As precedent for the arrangement with the bookstore, she cited the city's work with the Berklee College of Music to save a Manhattan recording studio.

The Drama Book Shop, which sells about 155,000 items a year, will close at its current location, on West 40th Street, on Jan 20 and will reopen at a new location, not yet being named, in autumn.

The new owners of the store are Miranda; Thomas Kail, director of the musical Hamilton; Jeffrey Seller, the lead producer; and Mr James L. Nederlander, president of the Nederlander Organisation, which operates the theatre in which the show's Broadway production is running.

They purchased the store from Mrs Rozanne Seelen, whose husband Arthur had bought it in 1958. Mr Seelen died in 2000.

Mrs Seelen said that she sold it for the cost of the remaining inventory, some rent support in the store's fi-

nal weeks and a pledge to retain her as a consultant. "It's the chronic problem – the rents were just too high and I'm 84 years old – I just didn't have the drive to find a new space and make another move," she said. "Lin-Manuel and Tommy are my white knights."

The new owners all frequented the bookstore at various points when they were seeking to build careers in

"When I was in high school I would go to the old location and sit on the floor and read plays – I didn't have the money to buy them," Miranda said in a telephone interview from Puerto Rico, where he is preparing to star in a three-week run of Hamilton in San Juan that opens today.

"After college, Tommy Kail and I met in the Drama Book Shop basement and I wrote a good deal of In The Heights there."

In 2016, after a burst pipe damaged the shop, Miranda came to its aid by urging his fans to patronise it. The store needed a lot more help this time.

"They're like family to us," he said, "and when we heard that the rent increase was finally too precipitous to withstand, we began hatching a plan." The store is particularly important to Kail, whose

post-college theatre venture, Back House Productions, was a resident company at the store. "I was, in many senses, professionally born in that

bookshop's basement - I spent the first five years of my career there," he said in a telephone interview from London, where he was checking in on the Hamilton production there.

Kail and Miranda both said that they were also inspired by It's A Wonderful Life (1946), in which townspeople rally to save an endangered family banking busi-

"There was no hesitation," Kail said. "The Building and Loan was struggling and we could do something." Seller's office, which is already running a Hamilton merchandise store in Midtown, will oversee day-today management.

He said that the bookshop would have a revamped website and expanded programming. The goal, he said, would be to break even, which in recent years the store has done occasionally, but not consistently.

Buying a diamond, with more clarity on its source

Tiffany & Co will provide customers the countries where their diamonds were mined and, eventually, information on where they were cut, polished and set

> NEW YORK • Consumers want to know the origin of the things they buy, like the name of the farm that supplied their milk or the source of the feathers in a down jacket.

> But when it comes to a diamond quite likely one of the most expensive and emotional purchases a jewellery buyer will ever make - most know next to nothing about the source of the stone.

> Tiffany & Co, which sold more than US\$500 million (S\$676 million) worth of diamond engagement rings in 2017, is hoping to change that.

> Beginning on Wednesday, it started a programme that will provide customers the countries where

their diamonds were mined and, eventually, information on where they were cut, polished and set.

The move is part of an effort among jewellers to attract younger shoppers, who may look upon established, venerable stores as stuffy and uncool. They also tend to eschew the hefty baubles their parents preferred for a much more spare style.

The issue of sourcing is especially acute with diamonds, which change hands many times from mine to showroom.

More buyers are asking for specific evidence that their gems were not produced using child labour or to finance wars or terrorist activity - the concerns over so-called blood diamonds.

So jewellers are starting to work provenance into their marketing, with some even exploring blockchain technology as a way to provide more information about a gem's origins.

But true clarity – a feature also prized in the gems themselves - remains elusive. And Tiffany acknowledges that it cannot provide customers with the precise location where a diamond was mined.

"A lot of diamond companies are still very opaque about their operations," said Professor Thomai Serdari, who teaches luxury marketing at New York University.

"There haven't been any particular strict guidelines to ensure that a diamond is truly coming from the area a dealer is claiming it's coming from."

Tiffany's roots date to 1837 when it started selling stationery and "fancy goods" in Manhattan. It is now known for the engagement rings it packs into robin's-egg-blue boxes, as well as curiosities like sterling silver replicas of a paper plate for US\$1,000 and a ball of yarn for

US\$9,000. But the retailer has fought to attract younger shoppers. Disappointing sales led its chief executive to resign abruptly in 2017 and a new leader, Mr Alessandro Bogliolo, took the role 15 months ago.

The company has had several strong quarters since his arrival, but in its most recent earnings report, a critical sales growth measure was less than half what Wall Street had expected.

The company's stock has tumbled 17 per cent since the miss in late November; Mr Bogliolo largely blamed weak spending by Chinese tourists, who have scaled back amid a trade war with the United States and a slowing economy at home.

Tiffany hopes to perk up interest in the brand with its programme on sourcing. Initially, it will tell customers the country where the diamond came from. Next year, it will share information about where each diamond was cut, polished and

Mr Bogliolo said he hoped to some day be able to provide the name of the mine where it was found, the artisan who shaped its contours and the jeweller who secured it in its setting.

"It's relevant nowadays for customers," he said. "Customers are very educated, mature and demanding." NYTIMES

Let's talk about zombies and SSO's 40th birthday gala Tune in to ST podcast Life Picks, where Life reporters highlight the best films, concerts, restaurants and arts

This week, we chat about low-budget Japanese zombie movie One Cut Of The Dead, which is part of the Japanese Film Festival, and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra's 40th anniversary gala.



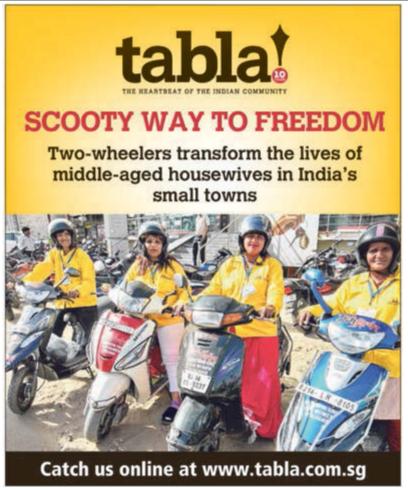




(from far left) Yip Wai Yee, Melissa Sim and Akshita Nanda Japanese zombie movie One Cut Of The Dead and Singapore Symphony Orchestra's 40th anniversary gala. ST PHOTO: **ERNEST LUIS**

Life reporters











GARFIELD



2.30 Sesame Street (HD) (P)

5.00 Littlest Pet Shop (S)

6.00 The Lion Guard (P)

(HD) (CC) (S)

(CC) (C)

(Sports)

1.10 Close

SURIA

(PG13) (Sports)

6.00 Kem Tahan (IE)

8.00 Berita (News)

11.30 Berita (News) (R)

AM

12.00 Close

V: Variety

3.00 Dora The Explorer (HD) (P)

4.00 All Over The Workplace (S)

5.30 Grizzy & The Lemmings (C)

6.30 The Diary Of Amos Lee (S)

3.30 Andy's Prehistoric Adventures (P)

4.30 Sherazade: The Untold Stories (S)

7.00 My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic

7.30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (HD)

9.30 ONE Championship 2018/19 - ONE

10.00 ONE Championship 2018/19: Destiny

8.00 Star Wars Rebels (HD) (CC) (S)

Warrior Series 2 (HD) (PG) (Sports)

Of Champions (Kuala Lumpur) (PG13)

12.40 ONE Championship Weekly (HD)

4.00 Seindah Takdir Cinta (PG) (D)

6.30 Makan Xtrim (PG) (CC) (IE)

7.00 Teratai Kemboja (PG) (CC) (D)

8.30 Mamaku Sayang (PG) (CC) (S)

C: Children; CA: Current Affairs;

CC: Closed Captions; Cul: Culture;

P: Preschool; PG: Parental Guidance;

R: Repeat; S: Schoolkids; SC: Sitcom;

StarHub and Singtel TV. For pay TV

updates, go to www.starhub.com/tv or

Programme schedules correct at time of

printing. Telecast details from Mediacorp,

D: Drama; IE: Info-Ed; M: Movies;

9.00 Fatonah Azali (PG) (CC) (Telemovie)

11.00 Juang Seorang Usahawan (CC) (IE)

5.00 Ti Amo, Sweetheart 100 Hari! (PG) (CC)

8.30 Inazuma Eleven (CC) (S)

9.00 Tryfactor (CC) (Sports)





Free to air

CHANNEL 5

6.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 15 (HD) (PG)(V) 7.00 First Look Asia (Simulcast From CNA)

9.00 The Dr Oz Show 10 (PG) (IE) 10.00 The \$100,000 Pyramid (HD) (PG) (V)

10.30 Everyday Gourmet 3 (HD) (IE) 11.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16 (PG) (V)

12.00 Martha Bakes 5 (HD) (IE) 12.30 Secret Meat Business (IE) 1.00 Wheel Of Fortune 36 (CC) (V) 1.30 Kin (PG) (CC) (D)

2.00 Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd 3 (SC) 2.30 Talking Point 2018 (HD) (CA) 3.00 The Dr Oz Show 10 (PG) (IE)

4.00 Meet The MP (HD) (PG) (CC) (SC) 4.30 America's Got Talent 12 (HD) (PG) (V) 5.30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16 (PG) (V)

6.20 Jumanji (HD) (PG) (CC) (M) 8.30 Kin (PG) (CC) (D) 9.00 News 5 (HD)

9.30 On The Red Dot - Old Enough! (CA) 10.00 The Chronicles Of Riddick (PG) (M)

12.10 Kin (PG) (CC) (D) 12.40 Whacked Out Sports (PG) (V) 1.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16 (PG) (V) 1.45 This Is Us (HD) (PG) (D)

2.30 The Dr Oz Show 9 (HD) (PG13) (IE) 3.20 Everyday Gourmet 3 (HD) (IE) 3.50 Martha Bakes 5 (HD) (IE)

4.15 Secret Meat Business (IE) 4.40 The \$100,000 Pyramid (HD) (PG) (V) 5.10 The Dr Oz Show 10 (PG) (IE)

CHANNEL 8

6.00 X Warrior – International PK Matches

7.30 Hello Singapore Highlights (CA) 8.00 Heart To Heart (PG) (CC) (D) 9.00 Morning Express (CA) 9.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D) **10.00** Focus (CA) 10.30 The Peach Blossom Village (Chinese Opera)

11.30 How Are You? (PG) (CC) (D)

StarHub TV

9.30 Ancient Aliens 11

2.05 Ancient Aliens 11

7.10 Pawn Stars 19

9.00 Vanished

9.00 Scraps

11.00 Zoo 3

12.00 Dance Moms 6

3.35 Born This Way 2

8.00 The Rap Game 3

8.30 Storage Wars 10

11.20 Breaking Mysterious PM

12.15 The Curse Of Oak Island 5

3.00 Storage Wars: Texas 6/3.30 Alone 3

1.10 History Drama: Vikings 5

4.25 History Drama: Vikings 5 **5.20** The Pickers 11

8.05 Storage Wars: Texas 6

11.45 Breaking Mysterious

10.50 The Curse Of Oak Island 5

LIFETIME (CHANNEL 514)

10.00 Project Runway: Fashion Startup

1.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16

5.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16

6.00 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown

9.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16

2.00 Iris Johansen's The Killing Game

4.30 Little Women LA: Terra's Little Family

7.00 Making A Model With Yolanda Hadid

10.25 Alone 3

HISTORY (CHANNEL 401)

12.30 JML Home Shopping (Infomercial) 1.00 News 8 At One 1.30 118 (PG) (CC) (D)

2.00 Cookie Master (C) 2.30 Your Hand In Mine (HD) (CC) (D) 3.30 Golden Age Talentime (CC) (V)

4.30 Taste Of Life (PG) (D) 5.30 118 Reunion (PG) (CC) (D) **6.30** Hello Singapore (CA) 7.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D)

8.00 Body SOS 7 (CC) (V)

8.30 Frontline (CC) (CA) **9.00** Heart To Heart (PG) (CC) (D) 10.00 News Tonight

10.30 Food And Beverage Investigators 8 11.00 Princess Agents (PG13) (D)

AM 12.00 The Princess Weiyoung (PG) (D) 1.00 Lady Investigators (D) 2.00 Changing Fortunes (D) 4.00 A Place Called Home (PG) (D)

CHANNELU

3.00 Heroes Of Remix (V) 4.30 King Of The Kitchens (IE) 5.00 Cheongdamdong Scandal (PG) (CC)

6.00 The Menu (PG) (CC) (D) 7.00 You Are The Only One (PG) (CC) (D) 9.00 Hello Taiwan (IE) 10.00 Brother's Keeper 2 (PG13) (CC) (D) 11.00 News Tonight

11.30 Hello Taiwan (IE) 12.30 You Are The Only One (PG) (CC) (D) 2.30 Close

CNA

6.00 Singapore Tonight

7.00 First Look Asia 9.00 Asia Business First 10.02 Champions For Change 11.00 News Now

1.02 Insight 2.00 News Now **4.02** Champions For Change

5.00 News Now : 7.02 Edible Wild (CC)

Singtel TV

6.00 Dowry (HD) 7.00 Hot Door Night 15 (HD)

5 Highlights: Belgium

2.00 BMX Supercross 2017: Lane 1 **2.30** Tennis: ATP 1000 Nitto ATP Finals 2018 Day 5 Session 1

4.30 Tennis: ATP 1000 Nitto ATP Finals 2018 Day 5 Session 2

2018 Highlights 7.30 BMX: 2018 Living The Ride 8.00 Asean Basketball League 2018/19

Eastern Basketball Team 2018: Italy Highlights

Round 5 Highlights: Belgium 11.30 UCI BMX Supercross World Cup Round 6 Highlights: Belgium

10.00 Dreamhouse Nightmare 11.35 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown

HBO (CHANNEL 601)

10.20 Geostorm (NC16) 12.05 Live By Night (NC16)

2.15 Ocean's Eleven 4.10 The Good Dinosaur 5.45 Confessions Of A Shopaholic 7.25 Despicable Me 9.00 Pacific Rim: Uprising (NC16)

CINEMAX (CHANNEL 611)

10.05 Sleepless (NC16)

10.50 Kill Bill: Vol. 1 (M18)

11.40 Basic Instinct (NC16) 1.35 Kidnap (NC16)/3.10 Into The Storm 4.50 Control Factor

6.20 Smokey And The Bandit II 8.00 Mr & Mrs Smith 10.00 The Brits Are Coming! (NC16) 11.30 Strike Back 3 (M18)

HUB E CITY (CHANNEL 825)

9.15 Dowry (HD) 10.15 Super Boys 2 (HD) 11.45 Fun Abroad (HD)

Shop (HD)

12.15 The Gentlemen Of Wolgyesu Tailor

1.30 Tomorrow With You (HD) 2.45 Sound Of My Dream 2 (HD) 4.45 The Gentlemen Of Wolgyesu Tailor Shop (HD)

8.00 Mr Player 7 (HD) 10.00 Sound Of My Dream 3 (Live)(HD)

HUB SPORTS 1 (CHANNEL 201)

9.30 Snooker: The Masters Finals 2018

Highlights - Finals 1.00 UCI BMX Supercross World Cup Round 1.30 UCI BMX Supercross World Cup Round

6 Highlights: Belgium

6.30 Presidential Cycling Tour Of Turkey

San Miguel Alab Pilipinas Vs Hong Kong 10.00 Mountain Bike: Enduro World Series

10.30 BMX Supercross 2017: Lane 1 11.00 UCI BMX Supercross World Cup

HUB SPORTS 2 (CHANNEL 202)

9.00 Fiba World Basketball 2019 9.30 Football: EFL Carabao Cup 2018 Semi-finals 1 Leg 1 Manchester City Vs **Burton Albion** 11.30 Magazine: The Burning Issue

12.00 Magazine: Omnisport.TV 12.30 Asean Basketball League 2018/19 Mono Vampire Basketball Club Vs CLS Knights Indonesia 14.30 Magazine: Fight Stars

15.00 Wrestling: WWE Smackdown (PG) 16.23 National Basketball League Round 13 Sydney Kings Vs New Zealand Breakers (Live) 18.30 The Football Review

19.00 National Basketball League 2018/19 - NBL Slam 19.30 Magazine: Omnisport.TV 20.00 Asean Basketball League 2018/19 Zhuhai Wolf Warriors Vs Singapore Slingers

22.00 Wrestling: WWE Bottomline (PG) 23.00 National Basketball League 2018/19 NBL Slam 23.30 Magazine: Omnisport.TV

0.00 Wrestling: WWE Smackdown (PG) 1.30 Fiba World Basketball 2019 2.00 Magazine: Omnisport.TV 2.30 Football: The EFL Highlights 2018/19 3.00 The Football Review 3.30 Fiba World Basketball 2019 3.45 Football: EFL Championship 2018 Matchday 27 Leeds United Vs Derby County (Live)

11.02 Insight

9.30 Super Octogenarians (CC)

AM **12.00** News Now 12.30 Asia Business First Weekend

7.30 Made In Singapore (CC)

9.02 Conversation With (CC)

10.00 Singapore Tonight

8.00 Primetime Asia

1.30 Super Octogenarians 2.00 News Now 2.30 Correspondents' Diary

1.02 Conversation With

3.02 Champions For Change 4.00 News Now 4.30 Correspondents' Diary

5.02 Conversation With **5.30** Super Octogenarians Programmes may be pre-empted by breaking news

VASANTHAM

PM

3.00 Super Samayal 4 (IE) 3.30 Azhagiya Snehithi 2 (IE)

4.00 Sundaram Kudumbathinar (HD) (D)

4.30 Enna Nadakuthu 6 (HD) (V) 5.30 Motu Patlu (S) 6.00 Suryaputhri 2 (Malayalam) (D)

7.00 Oru Oorilae (CC) (S) 7.30 Janani D/O Madhavan (CC) (S) 8.00 A For Anbu (CC) (S)

8.30 Tamil Seithi (News) 9.00 Indian Beat 9 (HD) (CC) (IE) 9.30 Tamil Talkies: Dheena (PG) (CC) (M) AΜ

12.30 Tamil Seithi (News) (R) 1.00 Close

ОКТО

9.00 Messy Goes To Okido (HD) (P) **9.30** Teddies (P)

10.00 Doki (P) 10.30 Sesame Street (HD) (P) 11.00 Dora The Explorer (HD) (P)

11.30 Andy's Prehistoric Adventures (P) 12.00 Bugsville (P)

1.30 Messy Goes To Okido (HD) (P) : 2.00 Doki (P)

12.30 Teddies (P)

1.00 Little Charmers (HD) (P)

CARTOON NETWORK (CHANNEL 226)

ΑM 6.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches 7.00 The Tom And Jerry Show

8.00 Teen Titans Go! 9.00 Grizzy And The Lemmings 9.30 The Tom And Jerry Show 10.00 We Bare Bears 10.30 Supernoobs

11.00 The Powerpuff Girls 12.00 Teen Titans Go! 1.00 We Bare Bears

2.00 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 2.30 The Powerpuff Girls 3.00 Running Man Animation

3.30 Craig Of The Creek 4.00 We Bare Bears 4.30 The Powerpuff Girls 5.00 Teen Titans Go!

5.30 OK K.O.! Let's Be Heroes 6.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches 6.30 Running Man Animation 7.00 The Tom And Jerry Show

7.30 Grizzy And The Lemminas 8.00 We Bare Bears 9.00 The Powerpuff Girls

10.00 Regular Show 10.30 Steven Universe 11.00 Clarence 11.30 Adventure Time

AXN (HD) (CHANNEL 304)

6.00 Valor

6.45 Kicking & Screaming **7.35** The Blacklist 5

8.25 MacGyver 9.15 American Ninja Warrior 7 10.05 Valor 10.55 Caught On Camera With Nick

Cannon 2 11.45 Kicking & Screaming 12.35 MacGyver

1.25 Quantico 2 2.15 American Ninja Warrior 7 3.05 Valor/3.55 The Blacklist 5 4.45 MacGyver

5.35 American Ninja Warrior 7 6.25 MacGyver 3 7.15 Kicking & Screaming 8.05 Instinct

8.55 Seal Team 2 9.45 Instinct 10.35 Charlie's Angels

WARNER TV (HD) (CHANNEL 306)

AM

: 11.35 Blended

6.00 iZombie 4 **6.50** Person Of Interest 4 7.40 Lethal Weapon 2 8.30 Supergirl 2 9.15 The Flash 3 10.05 iZombie 4 **10.50** Top 20 Funniest 2

1.40 Friends 7

2.30 iZombie 4 **3.15** Top 20 Funniest 2 **4.05** The Flash 3 4.55 Supergirl 2

www.singteltv.com.sg

5.40 Person Of Interest 4 **6.30** The Flash 3 7.20 Friends 7 8.10 The Big Bang Theory 12

8.35 Young Sheldon 2 **9.00** Gotham 5 9.50 Horrible Bosses 2 11.40 Harry Potter And The Deathly

Hallows - Part 1

COMEDY CENTRAL ASIA

(HD) (CHANNEL 324)

6.00 At Midnight With Chris Hardwick 2 6.25 The Daily Show 24 6.50 Just For Laughs Gags 10 7.15 Kids Do The Craziest Things **7.40** Mr Bean 8.10 Your Face Or Mine 4

8.35 Most Ridiculous 2 9.05 Billy On The Street 5 9.25 Takeshi's Castle 4 9.50 Mr Bean

10.20 Most Ridiculous 2 10.45 Almost Royals 2 11.15 Saturday Night Live 43 12.05 The Daily Show 24

12.30 The Goldbergs 5

1.25 Hot In Cleveland 5 2.15 The Comedy Jam 3.10 Takeshi's Castle 4 3.35 Most Ridiculous Asia With Wah!Banana 4.00 Almost Royals 2 4.25 The Goldbergs 5 5.15 Hot In Cleveland 5 6.10 The Daily Show 24 6.40 Above Average Presents 6.50 Your Face Or Mine 4 7.15 Most Ridiculous 2 **7.40** Billy On The Street 5 8.10 Takeshi's Castle 4

JIA LE (HD) (CHANNEL 502)

AM 6.00 Chronicle Of Love

7.00 First Love 8.00 Entrepreneurial Age 9.00 Eagle And Youngster 10.00 100% Wife

8.35 The Goldbergs 5

9.25 Hot In Cleveland 5

11.30 The Daily Show 24

9.50 Funny As Hell 3

12.10 First Love 1.00 In The Name Of Love 2.00 100% Wife 4.10 Entrepreneurial Age 5.00 First Love 6.00 In The Name Of Love 7.00 100% Wife

10.00 Entrepreneurial Age

11.00 Eagle And Youngster

9.10 First Love

TheStarsSav

Aries (March 21 - April 19) See if you can get your friends to tag along as you are going to lead them to great places.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

There is a disconnect between you and your people. In less than a week, things should be back to normal.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Listen to your friends today. They know what they are talking about, despite all appearances.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Try not to feel rushed today, even if it means saying no to the boss or your mate.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)

You may find that someone new is full of gossip or that an old friend wants to share a secret.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

You may run into some troubles with a colleague, even if neither of you is at work.

You are projecting darker feelings. The good news is

you can shake yourself out of it.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Today is great for starting new projects. If you can dream it, you can find a way to bring it to life.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You are full of fun and games. Leave responsibilities behind and take care of your inner child.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Your need for stability is met, so much so you might

feel safe enough to take a little risk. Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) You need to relax. It is much easier to take care of

business in an informal manner.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20) Your mental acuity is somewhat dimmed, so just go

along for the ride and enjoy what you can. Provided by Astrology.com (www.astrology.com)

Radio KISS92

6.00 Maddy, Jason & Arnold In The Morning

10.00 Carol Smith

1.00 Charmaine Yee 4.00 Shan Wee

8.00 Josh's Goodnight Kiss

ONE FM 91.3 6.00 ONE FM's #1 Breakfast Show With Glenn And The Flying

10.00 Cheryl Miles 4.00 Weekdays With ONE FM

MONEY FM 89.3

6.00 The Breakfast Huddle With Elliott Danker, Yasmin Jonkers & Ryan Huang 10.00 Midday With Howie Lim

2.00 Prime Time With Claressa Monteiro **4.00** The Curve With Michelle Martin & Bernard Lim

UFM100.3

AM

6.00 UFM100.3 Mornings With Wenhong, Limei & Xiaozhu **10.00** Lively Life With Kemin

1.00 Tea With Yuling 4.00 Sing-a-long With Xinying & Weilong 8.00 Feel The Night With Chengyao

96.3 HAO FM

 $\textbf{6.00}\, \mathsf{Morning}\, \mathsf{Drive}\, \mathsf{Time}\, \mathsf{With}\, \mathsf{Jing}\, \mathsf{Yun}, \mathsf{De}\, \mathsf{Ming}\, \mathsf{And}\, \mathsf{Jie}\, \mathsf{Qi}$ 10.00 Lunch Break With Anna

1.00 Automation 4.00 Evening Drive Time With Li Yi And Guo Xian 8.00 Night Time With Wei Wen

Tides

SUN RISE/SET TIME: 7.11am/7.14pm MOON RISE/SET TIME: 10.58am/11.16pm

TIDES TODAY: Singapore: 2.39am (2.8m), 8am (1.5m), 1.45pm (2.9m), 8.24pm (0.7m). Desaru: 2.24am (2.8m), 7.58am (1.7m), 1.16pm (2.5m), 7.48pm (1m). Port Dickson: 3.42am (0.4m), 9.30am (2.4m), 3.59pm (0.6m), 9.53pm (2.4m). Mersing: 1.57am (3.2m), 8.13am (1.9m), 12.58pm (2.3m).7.04pm (1.2m).

TIDES TOMORROW: Singapore: 3.11am (2.7m), 8.33am (1.5m), 2.22pm (2.8m), 8.56pm (0.8m). Desaru: 2.56am (2.7m), 8.35am (1.7m), 2.01pm (2.5m), 8.26pm (1.1m). Port Dickson: 4.15am (0.6m), 10.04am (2.2m), 4.24am (0.6m), 10.24pm (2.3m). Mersing: 2.28am (3.1m), 8.46am (1.8m), 1.44pm (2.3m), 7.35pm (1.4m).

For updates and more details, call Meteorological Service Singapore, NEA, on 6542-7788 or go to www.nea.gov.sg

Brie Larson does Superwoman act for Captain Marvel

LOS ANGELES • Brie Larson pushed a Jeep up a hill as part of her training to play Captain Marvel.

The effort has been worth it, with advance-ticket sales for Walt Disney's Captain Marvel off to a strong start, a sign of pent-up demand for the Marvel Cinematic Universe's first film with a female lead.

Since tickets went on sale on Monday, Captain Marvel has done

brisker business than last year's Deadpool 2, Black Panther and Venom, noted movie-ticket app Atom Tickets.

Disney is hoping to duplicate the success of Black Panther, whose majority-black cast resonated with audiences, reported Bloomberg.

With Larson, 29, a woman will get top billing for the first time in a series that has spanned 21 films. Her commitment to her craft has impressed co-star Samuel L. Jackson

"I think about a year ago, Brie started working out. She's got 5 per cent body fat now. The first (workout video) she sent me, she was lifting like 100 pounds (45kg). The last one she sent me was 350.

"And she does chin-ups and she sent me a video of her pushing a Jeep up a hill. "So she's made a distinct transfor-

mation that I don't think a lot of peo-

ple would be willing to do," he told journalists visiting the film set. Larson, who also stars in the upcoming Avengers: Endgame, is apparently keen to cash in on all the

training she has done.

Posting a video of her effortlessly tackling a rock-climbing wall, she playfully captioned it as her audition tape for a potential Spider-



Actress Noriko asks for money, gets mocked

SHANGHAI • Japanese actress Noriko Sakai is now paying for a tweet which led to her being slammed by Chinese netizens as an "international beggar".

On Tuesday, the 47-year-old apologised for the post which included links to online payment sites, reported Global Times.

She had sent new year greetings to fans on Monday on Sina Weibo. The tweet came with links for fanclub registration and money transfers via Alipay and UnionPay.

After fans raised an uproar that she was shamelessly asking for money, she deleted the tweet, saying that the payment links were meant only to help fans pay for enrolment in a fan club. But some netizens did not buy her explanation, noting that Sakai had also put up payment links in various posts last year.

The backlash is a sign of how her star has fallen since she made news in the 1990s as one of the rare Japaneseartist success stories in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, for her songs and TV dramas.

On social media



HSU RANTS ABOUT MYSTERY MAN: Who is she referring to in her Facebook post?

That was the question on people's minds when Taiwanese singer-actress Vivian Hsu, 43, flew into a rare rage on social media.

In the post on Wednesday, she wrote in striking white words against a black background,"I have never harmed anyone in my life, why do you want to harm me in the dark... If there is a god in this world, Heaven will definitely deal with an evil person like you! You wait."

In a reply to queries from Taiwanese news site ETtoday, Hsu said through her manager, "(My) mother always tells my two siblings and I to 'win over people with kindness'... I believe he knows that I am aware of his actions. I hope he will no longer abuse his power to spread rumours and harm the innocent. I will not tolerate it if it happens again. Thanks to the media for your concern!" PHOTO: VIVIAN HSU/FACEBOOK

Disgraced ex-Disney animation chief gets hired

LOS ANGELES • Is Hollywood serious about walking the talk to clean up its act? That issue was raised by the Time's Up movement – formed in the wake of sexual-abuse revelations – after former Disney animation chief John Lasseter

He resigned last year after acknowledging he made staff feel uncomfortable with unwanted hugs.

landed a new job at Skydance Me-

Lasseter, 62, who transformed Pixar from a graphics department at Lucasfilm into an animation-studio giant, is set to take charge of Skydance's animation unit.

Skydance's hiring "endorses and perpetuates a broken system that allows powerful men to act without consequence", the Time's Up organisation tweeted.

"At a moment when we should be uplifting the many talented voices who are consistently under-represented, Skydance is providing another position of power, prominence and privilege to a man who has repeatedly been accused of sexual harassment in the workplace."

Skydance chief executive David Ellison defended the move, saying: "John has been forthright in taking ownership of his behaviour, apologised for his actions and has spent the past year... analysing and im-

proving his workplace behaviour."

Lasseter said in a statement that his humbling experience can only make him a better person.



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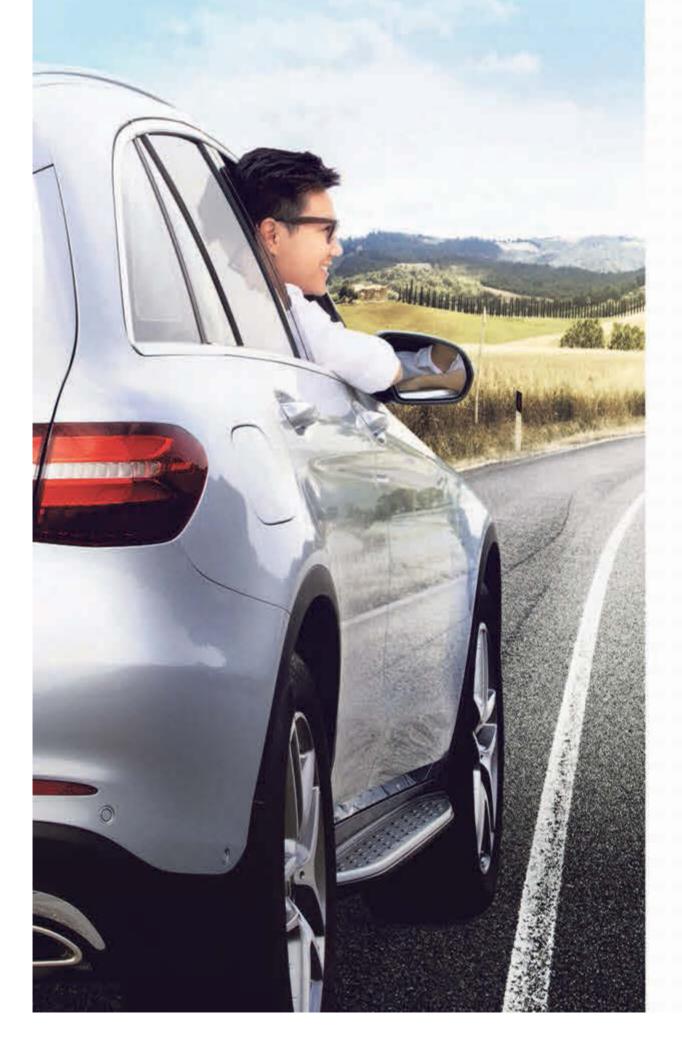


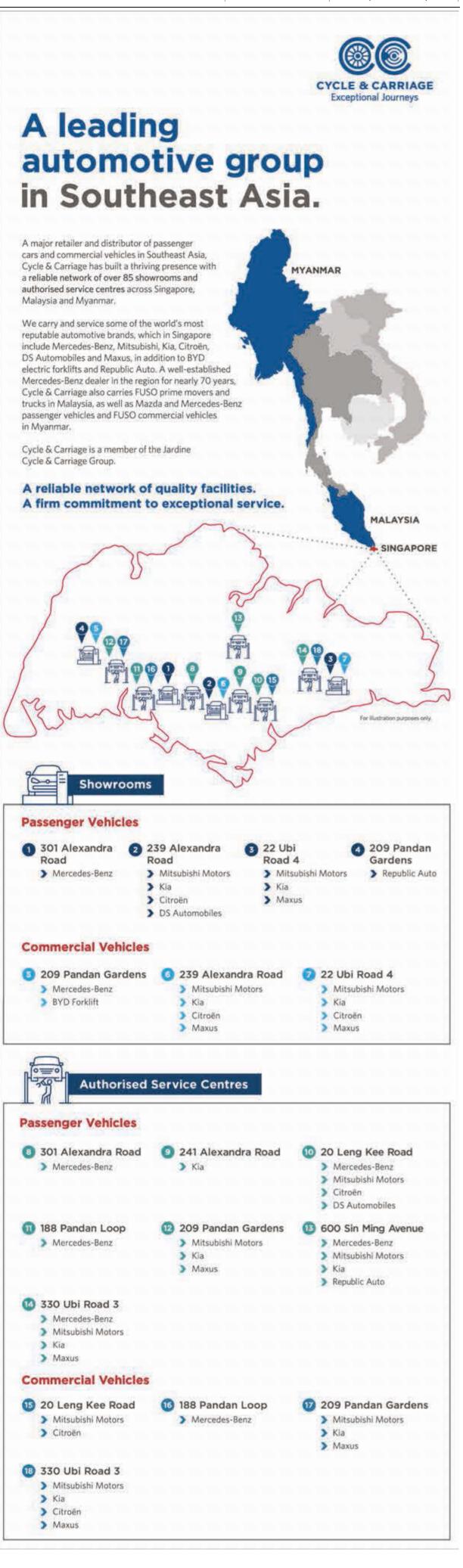
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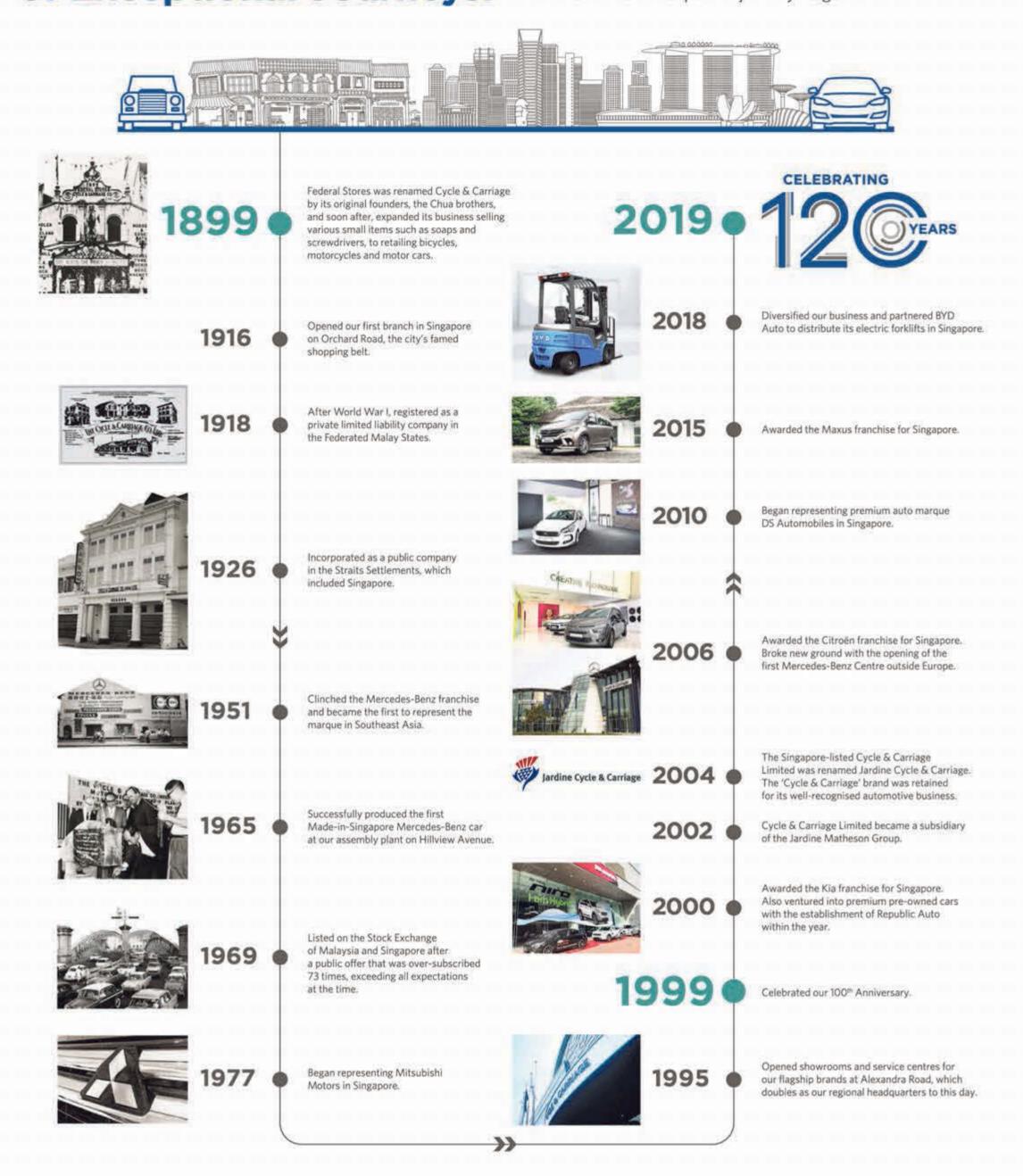






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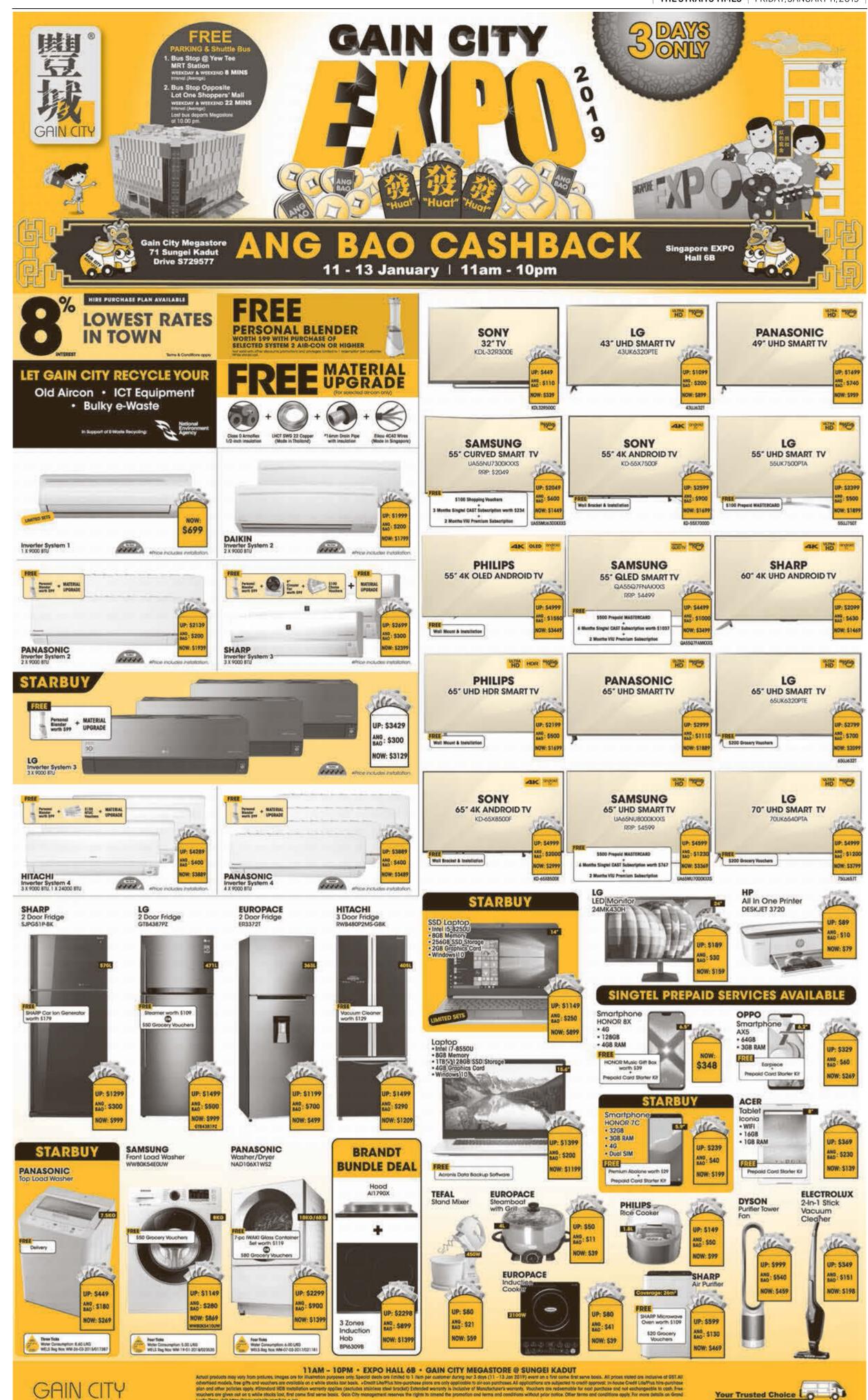
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HOME



U.S. ACTRESS OPENS HER FIRST MAJOR ART SHOW AT NATIONAL MUSEUM **B3**

Parents turn out for polys' open house

Polytechnics also tailor sessions for them as they become involved in their kids' education

Sandra Davie

Senior Education Correspondent

It is not just school leavers who are thronging open house and career guidance talks at the polytechnics and junior colleges this week.

With the release of the O-level results next Monday, parents, too, are signing up for talks, workshops and open house being held over this weekend and next week.

In fact, polytechnics are tailoring sessions for parents, thousands of whom might attend.

Polytechnic officials said that in previous years, only students would turn up for these sessions.

Ngee Ann Polytechnic, which is holding two forums for parents to-

morrow, already has 500 sign-ups.
Nanyang Polytechnic, which has a forum tonight at 7pm, already has more than 1,200 sign-ups. The polytechnic in Ang Mo Kio said that last year, parents made up close to 30 per cent of those who attended

such sessions.

Said Ngee Ann Polytechnic's deputy principal Mah Wee Beng: "It is good for parents to have an understanding of what a polytechnic education is all about and the different courses we offer.

"They know their children well, what their strengths and likes and dislikes are. So they can help them make the right decisions."

Two parents, who are taking leave from work to visit the polys, said it was important for them to be involved.

Mr Dennis Lim, 41, a manager who is accompanying his daughter, said that he would like her to take the junior college (JC) pathway, but she prefers the polytechnic route.

"So I took two days off to go with her for all the talks. I really don't have much idea about what the polys do, and what these newfangled courses are all about. So, I am going with an open mind to find out

Mrs Trinna Tham, 38, a business development manager who is also accompanying her daughter, said: "I feel this is a crucial point in my daughter's education journey and don't want her to make the wrong decision. And I am glad that the polys and JCs are catering to parents."

Teenagers, though, are less enthusiastic about their parents' involvement

Said Mrs Tham's daughter Anita, 17: "My mum is coming along because she is worried I will go for a soft option and pick something like communications and new media. She wants me to do something related to IT or biotechnology, which doesn't really interest me."

However, her friend Desiree Lim, 17, welcomes her parents' involvement. "My parents, especially my mum, know me well, and it will be



Parents at a forum catered for them at Ngee Ann Polytechnic last year. The poly, which is holding two such forums tomorrow, already has 500 sign-ups. PHOTO: NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC

helpful to have her advice."

Experts said that this is just an extension of "intensive parenting", which includes parents guiding their children through the education process.

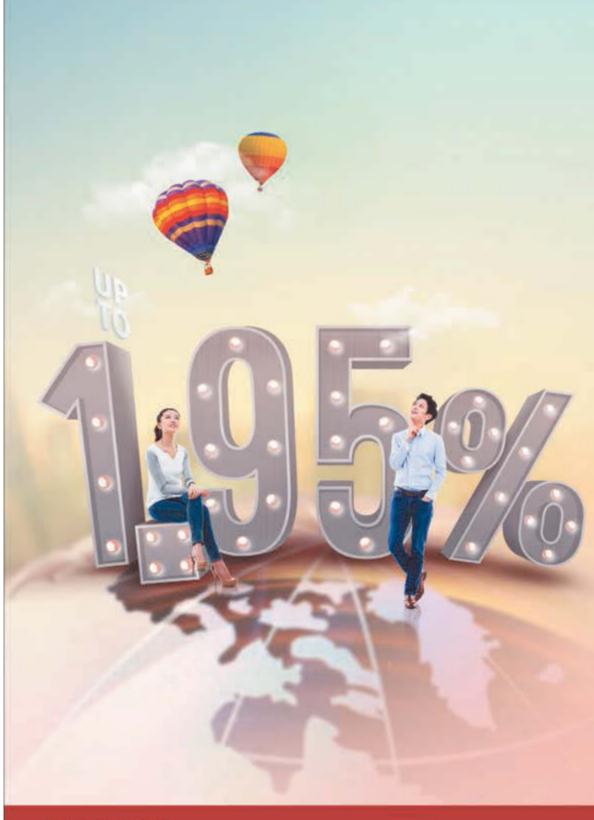
Polytechnic officials also pointed out that navigating the education system has become more complicated as more choices open up for school leavers. But experts also warned parents against taking over the decision-making process.

Ms Cheryl Ng, principal trainer at Focus on the Family Singapore, which runs parenting programmes, said: "Parents can have an open and honest discussion with their child to understand why they want to pursue a specific course of study, and the pros and cons of the options available to them.

"At times, when children may have unrealistic expectations, parents will be able to provide perspectives that their children may not have considered." But she added: "It is vital to allow room for their children to take ownership of their decisions, giving their teenagers the opportunity for growth."

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SEE HOME B2



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Report close shaves to reduce workplace injuries: Zaqy

Such accounts will plug gaps in safety procedures, he says

Vanessa Liu

Companies need to report near misses at the workplace and encourage workers to highlight hazards, in order to reduce the number of injuries resulting from industrial acci-

Speaking at the launch of Safe Hands Campaign 2019 yesterday, Minister of State for Manpower and National Development Zaqy Mohamad said such near-miss reports will plug gaps in existing safety pro-

The campaign, an initiative by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council, focuses on the prevention of machinery-related hand and finger injuries in the workplace.

Mr Zagy said for a near-miss reporting programme to be successful, a blame-free environment is critical.

"Workers should be encouraged to proactively flag out hazards with-

out fear of reprisal," he added.

Besides reporting near misses, he said, companies should also enforce appropriate control mea-

These include machine guards to protect workers from pinch points and moving machine blades, and devices that shut off electricity to potentially dangerous machines prior to repair and maintenance works.

While the number of hand and finger amputation cases in the workplace decreased from 140 in 2016 to 103 last year, Mr Zaqy said all of the injuries last year were preventable.

He added: "Inspections conducted by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) last year revealed that all of the amputation injuries could have been prevented by measures such as conducting better risk assessments, installing machine guards, and providing lock-out and tag-out procedures during maintenance and repair."

(From left) WSH Council chairman John Ng, Minister

Mohamad and SAESL CEO Bill Wozniak holding up workplace safety reminder stickers. ST PHOTO:

KEVIN LIM

of State for Manpower Zaqy

A near-miss reporting regime introduced in 2012 saw Singapore Aero Engine Services (SAESL), a company which works on Rolls-Royce Trent aeroplane engines, reduce its accident rate by 65 per cent over the past three years.

Of the 1,342 employees at SAESL, 878 work with heavy machinery.

Mr Zaqy was yesterday given a tour of the company's facility in Loyang, where he was shown the equipment used to prevent machinery-related injuries.

Among other things, SAESL introduced safety cutters with ceramic blades, which are less hazardous than the ones with metal blades, and a braking system that allows machinery to stop within one or two revolutions in emergencies.

Mr Bill Wozniak, the company's chief executive, said: "At SAESL, we say that safety has no budget limit. If something needs to be done, we will make sure that it's funded and properly given."

This year's Safe Hands Campaign is focusing on the metalworking sector, which has more than 5,000 companies.

The sector accounts for one of the highest number of amputation injuries within the manufacturing in-

There were 125 cases involving all forms of amputation injuries in 2017 across all industries and 143 the year before, MOM figures showed.

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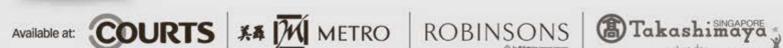
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Polytechnics FAQs from parents

Senior education correspondent Sandra Davie answers some frequently asked questions by parents at polytechnics' open

Q How do I know if my child is more suited for junior college (JC) or the polytechnic?

A For a start, look at the basic entry requirements.

For junior colleges, a student's L1R5 (English and five relevant subjects) should not exceed 20

For the polytechnics, a student's ELR2B2 (English and two relevant and two best subjects) should not exceed 26 points. However, for popular polytechnic courses such as biomedical science, this could be as low as 12 points.

If your child qualifies for both JC and poly, think about his academic preferences. If he likes a more structured and guided curriculum, the JC path may be what he is looking for.

However, if he is more handson, and likes more project work, the polytechnics could be more suitable. If the child has a clear passion for a specific career such as nursing, the poly route would be a good choice.

Q The polytechnics offer more than 200 courses. How do I help my child select the right course?

A Start by picking the clusters of courses that your child has an interest in, such as engineering, health sciences or information and digital technologies.

This should depend on what your child is passionate about and tends to do well in.

After identifying the relevant clusters, shortlist the courses of interest within the cluster by finding out more about the course curriculum and career prospects.

Your child's choice of courses should precede his choice of polys.

If your child is interested in media studies, then the first three choices should be for the same course in three different polys.

It is better to go for courses that one has a strong interest in.

Q What are the chances of my child going from a polytechnic to a local university, as opposed to going from a JC to university.

A Traditionally, junior college is seen as the most secure route to a degree - more than 70 per cent of A-level holders enter the local universities every year.

But the number of polytechnic graduates heading to one of the six local autonomous universities

is increasing. Currently, about one in three students entering the local universities is a poly graduate, up from one

More are even going to courses such as law and medicine.

sandra@sph.com.sg

in four in 2012.

PM seeks to strike out blogger's counterclaim

This is on grounds that it has no basis in law and is completely hopeless: Press secretary

Linette Lai

Political Correspondent

Lawyers for Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong have made an application to the courts to strike out the counterclaim by blogger Leong Sze Hian, who is being sued by PM Lee for defamation.

This is "on the ground that it has no basis in law and is completely hopeless", said PM Lee's press secretary Chang Li Lin, in response to media queries yesterday.

Mr Leong's lawyer, Mr Lim Tean, said in a statement yesterday that his client has received the application. He also said PM Lee has chosen not to serve a reply to the defence put up by Mr Leong.

Mr Leong, in a countersuit last month, claimed PM Lee's defamation suit against him for sharing a post on his Facebook page is an abuse of court processes.

He claimed in court papers that what he did was no more than what thousands of others had done in sharing the offending article which said PM Lee had helped launder money from Malaysia's embattled 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) state fund.

Mr Leong said in his countersuit: "The predominant purpose of the claim is the use of the legal process to chill freedom of expression in Singapore generally and in particular to restrict reporting on any role the Government may have had in the 1MDB scandal."

His lawyer, Mr Lim from Carson Law Chambers, also argued that the article on how Singapore and PM Lee had become targets of the investigation into 1MDB was "a matter of public interest... whether or not it was correct".

Mr Leong has launched a crowdfunding initiative to raise funds for his legal fees and potential damages, and hopes to get \$25,000.

As for PM Lee choosing not to reply to Mr Leong's defence, Senior Counsel Siraj Omar, who has more than 20 years of experience, said that generally speaking, the effect in law of a plaintiff not filing a reply to the defence is that he is "effectively challenging everything in the defence, and asking the defendant to prove what he says in the defence".

PM Lee initiated legal action against Mr Leong last month, after he shared on Facebook part of the headline of the article from Malaysian news portal The Coverage, with a link to the full article.

It was titled "Breaking News: Singapore Lee Hsien Loong Becomes 1MDB's Key Investigation Target -Najib Signed Several Unfair Agreements With Hsien Loong In Exchange For Money Laundering".

The article stated that former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak had signed "secret deals" with PM Lee in exchange for Singapore banks' help in laundering money from 1MDB.

PM Lee's lawyers said the article's allegations were "false and baseless", and it was clear Mr Leong had published the post "maliciously and to damage our client".

Mr Leong posted the article from The Coverage on Nov 7, the same day it was described as "fake news and clearly libellous" by Singapore's High Commission in Malaysia.

Mr Leong, in his defence, denies he was being malicious and, among other things, said his only involvement in the matter has been to make available the article on his Facebook page "without embellishment or comment for less than three days".

He took down his post on Nov 10 after being told to do so by the Infocomm Media Development Authority, according to court papers filed.

Mr Leong is seeking compensation for damage to his reputation through the issuance, continuance and reporting on the legal proceedings, as well as costs, the court papers said.

PM Lee is seeking aggravated damages as well as costs, plus an injunction that Mr Leong be prevented from publishing or disseminating the defamatory allegations, or any other allegations of complicity in matters relating to 1MDB.

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Actress Lucy Liu talking about her painting Baby's First Christmas from her Family series. ST PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG



An art piece by award-winning Hollywood actress and artist Lucy Liu from her Lost And Found series.



The exhibition features Pulp: A Short Biography Of The Banished Book, part of a decade-long project Shubigi Rao began in 2014 about book and library destruction.

Lucy Liu in Singapore for art exhibition

Olivia Ho

American actress Lucy Liu is in Singapore for the first time for Unhomed Belongings, a joint exhibition with Singaporean artist Shubigi Rao, which opens tomorrow at the National Museum.

Liu, 50, is best known for starring in films such as Charlie's Angels (2000) and television show Elementary (2012 to present), but has also been creating art since she was 15 years old.

She was introduced to Rao, 43, by the museum and non-profit arts organisation The Ryan Foundation, which is co-presenting the exhibition.

Both artists work with found objects and explore themes of loss, destruction and salvage in their works.

The exhibition features 15 artworks by the duo, including Lost And Found by Liu, a series of handmade books into which she glued discarded items she picked up from the streets, and Pulp: A Short Biography Of The Banished Book, part of Rao's decade-long project about book and library destruction. The first portion of this work won the Jurors' Choice Award at the APB Foundation Signature Art Prize last year.

The exhibition is free and will run in the museum's

Stamford Gallery until Feb 24.

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Cold Storage

The fresh food people



Animal parade adds colour to Little India

Rahimah Rashith

A cow decked out in garlands of flowers, bells and a shawl, and with its horns painted, wowed dozens of people in Little India yesterday as it ambled with a herd of similarly spiffed-up cattle down Campbell Lane.

The animal parade, which in-

Pongal festival

About the

Falling in mid-January each year at the start of the auspicious Tamil month of Thai, it is a thanksgiving celebration by the Tamil community for a year of bountiful harvest.

During this period, families carry out rituals such as decorating the floors of their homes with colourful designs in rice flour and cooking Pongal, a traditional sweet rice pudding cooked with cow's milk, which is served to visiting relatives and friends.

This decorated cow was part of an animal parade in Little India yesterday under the annual Pongal festival. ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

activities related to Pongal go on till Feb 10.

More than 800,000 people are expected to descend on Little India during this period.

Highlights of this year's festival include a Little India Food Trail, workshops and a series of activities and street decorations.

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SIA fires pilot whose failed alcohol test caused flight cancellation

Separate investigation by Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore is ongoing

Karamjit Kaur

Senior Aviation Correspondent

A Singapore Airlines (SIA) pilot who failed an alcohol test in Australia last year before he was to operate a flight has been fired, The

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Straits Times has learnt.

The incident in Melbourne on Sept 15 forced the airline to cancel a Melbourne-Wellington (New Zealand) service.

Responding to queries from The Straits Times, the airline, which had grounded the pilot while investigations were conducted, confirmed that his employment had been terminated.

A separate investigation by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) is ongoing.

Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority officials had conducted a random drug and alcohol test on all crew members before they started their pre-flight checks for the Melbourne-Wellington flight.

The captain in question was found to have a higher-than-suitable blood alcohol level and did not pass the test.

SIA, which takes such incidents seriously, is working with other stakeholders, including its pilots' union, to study new measures to prevent a similar incident, its spokesman said.

These include random pre-flight testing and reporting by individuals and peers.

The Straits Times understands that the airline is working closely with CAAS on this.

Last October, Senior Minister of State for Transport Lam Pin Min, responding to a query in Parliament on the incident, had said that CAAS was reviewing the regulations and procedures to strongly deter such behaviour.

Under Singapore's Air Navigation Order, it is an offence for any person, including a pilot, when acting as a member of the crew of an aircraft operating out of Singapore's airports or for a Singapore-registered aircraft, anywhere it is operating, to be under the influence of alcohol.

The offence carries a maximum penalty of a fine of up to \$100,000 and five years in jail.

The Air Navigation Order says that Singapore carriers must ensure that their flight crew abstain from alcoholic drinks for at least eight hours prior to operating a flight.

SIA, however, requires its crew to abstain for at least 10 hours.

On top of that, airline pilots licensed in Singapore have to undergo annual medical assessments, which include assessment of their alcohol consumption habits, in addition to the physical examinations and medical investigations that are usually carried out.

Regulators and airlines are getting tough on pilots and other aircraft crew for alcohol and substance abuse, in the wake of several recent incidents.

Last November, Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways said they would implement stricter alcohol tests for their pilots.

This came after a Japan Airlines pilot was arrested in London for failing a breath test shortly before

In April 2017, Taiwan's China Airlines sacked a pilot who failed an alcohol test before operating a flight from Taichung to Hong Kong.

karam@sph.com.sg

SIA, which takes such incidents seriously, is working with other stakeholders, including its pilots' union, to study new measures to prevent a similar incident, its spokesman said. These include random pre-flight testing and reporting by individuals and peers.

TANGS

cluded three cows, two calves and

a pair of goats, is part of the annual

Pongal festival, a thanksgiving cele-

bration by the Tamil community

The animals will be housed tem-

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To kick off its move towards electric vehicles the carmaker unveiled the battery-powered Leaf at the Singapore Motorshow yesterday. ST PHOTO KUA CHEE SIONG



Nissan commits to fully electrified range

From 2022, all its new models arriving here will be fully battery-powered or hybrids

Christopher Tan

Senior Transport Correspondent

Nissan Motor says all new models it launches from 2022 will be electrified, becoming the first carmaker to set such a bold goal here.

Japan's second-biggest vehiclemaker announced at the Singapore Motorshow vesterday morning that in three years' time, all its new models arriving here will be either fully battery-powered or hybrids.

Mr Ron Lim, head of sales and marketing at Nissan agent Tan Chong Motor, told The Straits Times that up to seven electrified Nissan models will be due by 2022.

Kicking off this ambitious programme is the battery-powered Leaf, which was unveiled at the motor show. The car, which has a range of at least 250km, is expected to be priced below \$150,000.

Next will be the Nissan Serena e-Power, a multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) driven by an electric motor with batteries kept constantly

charged by a small petrol generator. The MPV will be launched in the second half of this year.

Besides superior efficiency, the Serena e-Power's road tax is less than one-third that of a conventional petrol car of the same size.

Electric models took centre stage at yesterday's event at Suntec Singapore convention centre, with half a dozen zero-emission models showcased. These included the Hyundai Kona Electric and Jaguar I-Pace both of which promise a driving range of 400km or more.

On the sidelines of the show, private-hire player Grab confirmed that it had bought 200 Kona Electric cars, with the first 20 hitting the road today.

The rental for the battery-powered car is \$80 per day – equivalent to comparable petrol models. Grab said its drivers get a 30 per cent discount on electricity charges at SP Group's network of chargers.

Taxi operator ComfortDelGro has meanwhile added two Kona Electric cars to its fleet as part of a trial it started in July last year.

In all, 25 launches and unveilings took place at the Singapore Motorshow, which showcased 140 cars across 31 brands.

The show kicked off as the motor trade enters a year of uncertainty. Singapore Motor Traders Associa-

tion president Glenn Tan said the certificate of entitlement (COE) supply is expected to shrink - by around 10 per cent – this year.

But he added that COE prices may not change significantly in spite of that because of bearish economic sentiments.

The wild card, though, is new private-hire firm Gojek, which is seen heating up demand for cars – just as Uber once did.

"If Gojek does not go crazy, we should be fine," Mr Tan said.

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13 years' jail, cane for man who groomed girl, 12

Selina Lum

Law Correspondent

A minimart worker courted a 12-vear-old girl with gifts and called her his "wife", grooming her to engage in progressively intrusive sexual acts with him over a period of three months, the High Court heard yesterday.

Indian national Udhayakumar Dhakshinamoorthy, 31, was sentenced to 13 years' jail and 12 strokes of the cane after he pleaded guilty to a charge of sexual penetration of a minor and two charges of attempted statutory rape. Four other charges were considered.

The offences, which took place between September and December 2016, came to light after his pregnant adult girlfriend discovered a video of the naked girl in his

In sentencing, Judicial Commissioner Pang Khang Chau noted that Udhayakumar had exploited the innocence and naivete of the girl and morally corrupted her.

The court heard that when he first asked the girl for sex after taking her to the staircase of a block of flats, she told him she was not sure what sex was, to which he responded that he would teach her.

Udhayakumar admitted that he tried to have sex with the girl on two occasions, but failed.

After his second foiled attempt, he gave the girl \$50, unilaterally ended their "relationship" and no longer allowed her to take things from the minimart for free.

This proved his previous generosity was merely a facade to get the girl to have sex with him, said Deputy Public Prosecutor Gail Wong in sentencing arguments.

Udhayakumar began working at the minimart in a housing estate in September 2016.

He took notice of the girl when she visited the minimart with her

two siblings. A few days later, when she came alone, he told her to follow him to the second floor, where he asked for her name, age and whether she had a boyfriend.

The girl, who was turning 13 at the end of that year, told him she was 13 and that she did not have a boyfriend. He then asked her to be his girlfriend, and she agreed.

A few days later, he gave her a SIM card for her phone, asking her to send him a text message.

On their first chat, he asked the girl for a nude selfie of herself. He also asked her to take a video of her private parts, and she complied. After this, he would let her take ice cream, toys and tidbits from the minimart without paying. He would also kiss and hug her when they were alone.

A week after getting the nude images, Udhayakumar initiated sexual acts with the girl.

After school, he led her to various places in the neighbourhood to engage in petting, giving her between \$5 and \$10 after each session. This escalated to more intrusive sexual acts, including attempts at sexual intercourse.

He also started referring to her as his "wife" and told her he wanted to marry her. She called him "uncle".

While he was having sexual liaisons with the minor, he began seeing a woman in October of that year. In May 2017, while Udhayakumar and his girlfriend were at a hotel, the woman, who suspected he was having an affair, took note of the password used to unlock his phone.

She checked his phone while he was asleep and was shocked when she found the video of the girl in her school uniform exposing herself. The girlfriend forwarded the video to herself and lodged a police report against Udhayakumar a few days later.

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New straight-to-PhD programme at SUTD

20 students to start in May; they will each receive a \$15,000 grant

Jolene Ang

A new programme will allow a select group of students here to do research on top of their regular academic load, and upon graduation, jump straight into their PhD.

The Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) said only 20 out of the 500-strong incoming cohort will start the SUTD Honours and Research Programme (Sharp) in May, when the new academic year begins.

In a media briefing yesterday, the university said students have to score at least two H2 As in mathematics and a science subject in the A levels, or the equivalent for other qualifications, to be considered.

The programme is open to both engineering and architecture students. The SUTD said it is looking to dou-

ble the Sharp intake in the future. Each student will receive a \$15,000 grant, half of which is for their research project and the other half is for conferences and other expenses.

A faculty member will also provide one-on-one research supervision and mentorship, but the students can apply for internships at local and overseas research institutes as well.

By the end of the 31/2-year programme, students will need to have completed research projects and a research thesis.

The regular undergraduate programme is also $3^{1}/_{2}$ years long.

While other students have access to an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme, the Sharp programme is more structured, an SUTD spokesman said.

SUTD's president, Professor Chong Tow Chong, said: "Sharp aims to equip students with deep critical thinking and problem-solving skills that help them think out of the box, to come up with original

Students in the programme will graduate with a bachelor's degree in either engineering or science, and have the option of applying to take up a direct PhD in engineering or architecture, or a master's in engineering research.

The university has received about 50 applications since it started accepting them in December last year.

Applications close in March.

Mr Ethan Leng, 19, an engineering science student from Ngee Ann Polytechnic who will be graduating in May, recently received an acceptance letter to enrol in the Sharp programme in 2021, after he completes his national service.

"This programme will give me a head start - I will get to start exploring research fields earlier and decide on a specialisation earlier," he said, adding that he is likely to take up the offer and is interested in doing research in the electronics field.

Prof Chong also announced changes in the engineering degree programmes which are meant to create more flexibility for the university's minor programmes, of which there are currently seven on

The university will now give engineering undergraduates more freedom to choose unrestricted elec-

tives that they can take as minors. With this, students no longer need to overload their timetables to se-

cure their minor, said the university. It added that it will also expand its grade-free system, in a bid to place less emphasis on examina-

One academic year at the SUTD spans three terms, and students typically take four courses per term.

Currently, first-year students' grades for courses taken in their first term do not count towards their Grade Point Average.

From May, first-year students can choose two additional courses to be grade-free over the second and third term.

Said Prof Chong: "We want to give incoming students greater flexibility and ease in pursuing their interests and broaden their knowledge and hands-on experiences... while de-emphasising the focus on academic grades."

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Republic Poly launches course to groom high-tech farmers

Cheryl Teh

A new course here aims to train the next generation of high-tech farmers so that Singapore can produce more of its own food.

The Diploma in Applied Science in Urban Agricultural Technology, launched by Republic Polytechnic (RP) on Wednesday, is the first fullqualification diploma course in agricultural technology in Singapore.

The course was developed by RP, in consultation with the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore, to develop a local core agriculture workforce with modern agricultural knowledge and techniques to drive the sector's growth and transformation.

Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Koh Poh Koon spoke at the launch of the diploma, which was held together with the opening of the polytechnic's Agriculture Technology Laboratory.

Dr Koh highlighted the need for a new generation of talent in agricultural technologies, to turn Singapore into a leading Asia hub for urban agriculture and aquaculture

technologies. The growth of the Republic's urban agriculture and aquaculture sector is also an essential pillar in upholding Singapore's food supply resilience, he added.

"As a small country where land is a scarce resource, Singapore has always had limited land space for domestic food production," said Dr



Republic Polytechnic second-year biotechnology students Lim Wei Han (left), 20, and Jocelyn Tew Zhi Ning, 19, inspecting plant growth in the hydroponic system at the Agriculture Technology Laboratory. PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

Koh, adding that Singapore might be affected by global food supply de-

velopments and disruptions. He added that Singapore's local farms produce just 10 per cent of

food fish, 13 per cent of vegetables and 27 per cent of eggs consumed here. But he is confident that these percentages will continue to grow, with technological developments and more young farmers joining the industry through avenues such as

RP's urban agriculture diploma. The first batch of 25 students will start the part-time diploma course

in June. These students will be taught five modules, with a focus on agricultural technologies for food production, farming process and management, urban farming tech-

nology and systems, agribusiness, and sustainable farming.

The programme's first run also involves eight local farms: Citizen Farm, ComCrop, Farm 85 Trading, Koh Fah Technology Farm, Liteleaf, Nippon Koi Farm, Sustenir Agriculture, and Vegeponics.

The farms will give students in the course on-the-job training opportunities and internships.

The course comes in two formats - one for fresh Institute of Technical Education graduates to build on what they have learnt in school, and the other for adult learners who want to switch to, or further their careers in, the agro-technology and agri-business sector.

RP's new Agriculture Technology Laboratory will give students in the diploma course in-house, hands-on training. The laboratory will also be used as a platform for workshops, industry-relevant projects and research in agriculture technology to incubate solutions to enhance productivity in farms.

It features technologies used in the farming industry today, including vertical farming towers irrigated by a nutrient tank and a horizontal hydroponic system irrigated by shallow tubes.

The laboratory also displays the hydroponic deep water culture system, where the roots of plants are submerged in a nutrient solution, and an energy-efficient substrate growing system.

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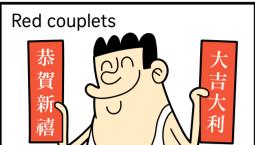
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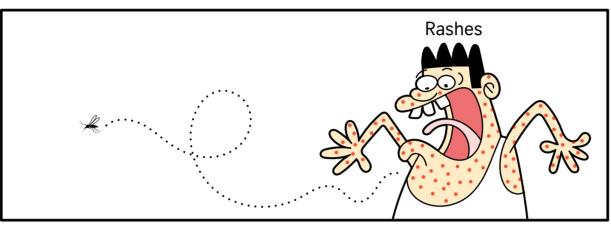
FORUM

HEEGHAN'S TAKE

Red things for the upcoming festive season







Number of dengue cases up: 207 cases in first week of 2019

Treat failure as a learning experience

I share Mr Dennis Chan Hoi Yim's concerns over the way employers seem to still value a record of consistent academic achievement, which leads to students avoiding risks (Don't judge job candidates by past failures; Jan 4).

Stanford University Professor of Psychology Carol Dweck in her book Mindset describes how the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) rejected candidates who had records comprised only of success.

Instead, Nasa recruited astronauts that had experienced significant failures and bounced back from them.

The rationale for this seemingly counter-intuitive approach becomes clear when you consider how an astronaut in space could be hundreds or thousands of kilometres from any help.

Should a problem arise, how would a person who had never known adversity handle the situation?

Nasa cannot afford to have an astronaut crack under pressure out in space.

We have collectively created, to our detriment, the cult of the person who has never failed. Yet, we know that nobody goes through life without experiencing failure.

It is how a person recovers from failure that is more important than the failure itself. It is time we rethink some of the criteria we use to assess people. Soh Gim Chuan

S'poreans must take chances to stay ahead

Editor-at-Large Han Fook Kwang's article is likely to strike a chord with many Singaporeans who realise the old formula for work and life no longer works as well (The 4G question: Whither exceptional Singapore?; Jan 8).

Times have changed, and studying hard to land a good job that will deliver a good life is no longer enough.

Now, there are many more university graduates from different fields than a generation ago. Singapore's neighbours also used

to lag behind us, but now they are closing in on us as our economy matures. Thus, if we want the good life that

many of us have become accustomed to, we will need to

work harder to get it. And it is up to every individual to take the initiative to do so. Asia is booming. While we still retain an edge over the competition, we should venture abroad to realise the huge potential in the region and beyond.

Technology and the deluge of cheaper and hungrier labour elsewhere nibble away at what advantage we have left.

It is shocking that Singaporeans have yet to take this initiative. Why has there not been more interest in learning foreign languages?

Why have we not encouraged more people to study in developing countries alongside the developed ones?

Yes, Singapore has made it, but for how much longer? Our sheltered upbringings may

have blunted our survival instinct. : Lee Teck Chuan

Asia is booming. While we still retain an edge over the competition, we should venture abroad to realise the huge potential in the region and beyond. Technology and the deluge of cheaper and hungrier labour elsewhere nibble away at what advantage we have left.

Impose total ban on pork from China

I read with some concern how China has confirmed about 100 cases of African swine fever across 23 provinces since August last year, and culled hundreds of thousands of pigs (AVA suspends pork import from areas in China with African swine fever outbreaks; Jan 4).

Despite this, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore has imposed only a partial ban on the import of pork and pork products, limiting the ban to areas in China with African swine fever outbreaks.

more comprehensive ban? There is no guarantee that every

Would it not be wiser to impose a

case of African swine fever will be reported to the Chinese authorities. Even if every case was reported, there would still be a delay between the start of a fresh outbreak and the eventual suspension of pork imports from the newly affected

During this window, infected pork products might make their way into Singapore.

Given that only 4 per cent of Singapore's total pork supply is imported from China, surely moving from a partial to a complete ban on Chinese pork products is likely to have a minimal impact. Shane Ng

FORUM ONLINE

1. KHONG KIONG SENG: CPF survey booklet sheer waste of paper.

2. SECURITY ASSOCIATION **SINGAPORE:** Security officers are not odd-job labourers.

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Harbhajan Singh

The veteran nurse led a team of more than 100 nurses in the 2003 fight against Sars, the severe acute respiratory syndrome. Today, at the age of 78, Harbhajan Singh continues to work at the very hospital he first joined as a young man aged 25.



Annabelle Kwok

At 26. NeuralBay founder Annabelle Kwok has already made her mark in artificial intelligence. She also wears many other hats as mathematician, hardware hacker, sportswoman, arts performer and do-gooder.



Teo Yee Ming Hai Sing Catholic School teacher Teo Yee Ming has led the school's robotics team from obscurity to success on the world stage. The school team has won the world's most prestigious robotics competition four times.



Elizabeth Tan Entrepreneur Elizabeth Tan grew her father's shoe shop into a global chain with 50 stores. She is also a humanitarian who set up Sight To Sky, a charity which organises annual mobile eye clinics in India. Pakistan and Nepal



Bjorn Low From a small social enterprise, Bjorn Low's Edible Garden City is now a thriving business. It designs and builds food gardens, supplies greens to restaurants, and trains and employs people from vulnerable

or marginalised segments.



Kenneth and Adeline Thong

The Thongs not only open their house to young people without a roof over their heads to live in for free, but they also recreate a home within a house for them. Both left their jobs to be present in the lives of young



Siti Noor Mastura

Siti Noor Mastura rose above childhood poverty and overcame the odds to launch two non-profit groups. One distributes halal groceries to the poor and the other promotes honest discussions between people of different faiths.



Nizar Mohamed Shariff and Free Food For All

In 2014, Nizar Mohamed Shariff set up Free Food For All, a charity that provides free cooked meals for the needy. The charity cooks up to 100,000 meals a year for 3,000 elderly or low-income residents living in rental flats.



Douglas Yeo and Poh Kok Wee Veteran diver Douglas Yeo, 50, risked

his life to help with the evacuation of the last five Thai boys who were trapped in a cave. Age also did not deter Poh Kok Wee, 57, from helping scout for alternative cave entrances to reach the boys.



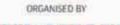
Teo You Yenn

Sociology researcher Teo You Yenn published a book of essays on the lives of people who live in HDB rental flats. This Is What Inequality Looks Like is a bestseller that has sparked a national conversation on socio-economic inequality in Singapore.



Robert Chew

Robert Chew, 69, has donated blood a total of 184 times. He started when he was 18 years old and donates blood three to four times a year. He has drained his body of blood 18 times over his lifetime as a donor.



THE STRAITS TIMES WE'VE GOT SINGAPORE COVERED















Keep pioneer statues around permanently

I congratulate the Singapore Bicentennial Office (SBO) for its decision to erect the four statues of Sang Nila Utama, Tan Tock Seng, Munshi Abdullah and Naraina Pillai to present a more holistic picture of Singapore's history.

It is a timely reminder that Singapore's growth is the result of the cumulative contributions of both the British and various multiracial communities over the

However, I was surprised to learn that these statues will be removed by the end of the year.

Why should this be so? The statues of the four pioneers should be erected permanently, not treated as a temporary source of historical euphoria lasting only a year.

We would be doing future generations a disservice by not permanently preserving a balanced : Wan Hussin Zoohri

and holistic picture of Singapore's

I am also struck by the absence of Sang Nila Utama's name in

Singapore's physical landscape. We have numerous places named after Sir Stamford Raffles, but not one named after Sang Nila Utama even though he was the one who established the kingdom of

Singapura in 1299.

Don't rob colonial British of credit due them

Contrary to Mr Anthony Oei's points (Raffles' arrival did not mark founding of modern S'pore; Jan 5), 1819 marked the founding of modern Singapore as it was then that Singapore became integrated

into the global trade network. While Singapore was once part of a wide-ranging maritime trade network, by 1819 this was in the

distant past.

The trade network of the day was segregated into jealously-guarded spheres by middlemen, with goods from the original producers in the East passing through many hands before they reached destination markets in the West.

The British development of Singapore as a trade settlement,

given that 1819 Singapore did not yet have the necessary facilities to play a role in the global trade network, should therefore mark the beginning of its modern era.

Their non-altruistic motives should not cloud our understanding of the objective contributions made to modern Singapore. Chen Junyi

IP, DSA – about maximising every child's potential

We thank the writers of recent letters commenting on the Integrated Programme (IP) and Direct School Admission (DSA) schemes (Our learning culture needs a reset, by Mr Seah Yam Meng, Jan 2; Time to relook DSA scheme, by Madam Chong Sze Kah, Jan 2; Spread top students among more schools, by Mr Gerard Lee How Cheng, Jan 3; and Talk to people on the ground to find sound solutions, by Ms Yeo Boon Eng, Jan

The Education Ministry's (MOE's) approach to tackling inequality is not to cap the top, but to uplift the weaker performers.

Hence, we have implemented various initiatives, such as learning support programmes and enhanced financial assistance to help students who are weaker or from more challenging backgrounds. At the same time, MOE has

 $established\, multiple\, pathways\, in$ our education system to maximise opportunities for every child to fulfil his or her potential. The IP

and DSA are part of this effort. The IP in particular, meets the needs of students who are strong in academic subjects, with a broader and less structured learning experience. DSA, in turn, provides an alternate path, on top of the PSLE, to admit students into IP schools

However, as in all courses, there will be students who do not cope well in the IP. Our schools will provide the necessary support and guidance to help these students.

If necessary, these students can be transited to the O-level track in the same school, or to take up alternative pathways in another school. They need not be regarded as failures. We have to recognise that students' needs can evolve and : Ministry of Education

alternative paths are available to them as they develop.

As a society and as an education system, we must do better to enable our students to feel safe learning in any pathway, and to switch paths if the need arises.

Parents have a big part to play too, when choosing secondary schools for their children. Considerations should include the student's aptitude, needs, interests, and how the school can support the child's development.

We should not be fixated on a particular path for the child.

The IP serves the great majority of its students well. To abolish or to curtail the programme would be a pity, and would cap the potential of our students.

Liew Wei Li (Ms)

Deputy Director-General of Education (Schools)

Excerpts from readers' letters

CRACK DOWN ON LITTERBUGS

I am saddened by the sorry state of Changi Beach Park, which was littered with disposables and used beverage containers on my recent

Bins are ubiquitous and conveniently located, yet inconsiderate park-goers still chose to litter.

I urge the authorities to step up anti-littering enforcement measures, and arrange for Changi Beach Park to be cleaned up more frequently.

Lee Yong Se

IMPERSONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Calling public service agencies for assistance can land a person in a virtual maze, needing to be super alert and press the right button within the given timeframe to reach the desired destination.

In my recent experience with the Found and Unclaimed Property Office, I was asked to leave a voicemail message. This went on for three days without a response. Only after calling on the fourth day did I speak to a customer service officer who attended to my queries with courtesy and professionalism.

Why did it take this long to get a response? What if the issue had been related to security and required immediate attention?

The use of technology should not come at the expense of the human touch, which speaks volumes about the quality of

Padmini Kesavapany (Mrs)

CREATE MORE ZEBRA CROSSINGS

The Land Transport Authority's Land Transport Master Plan 2040 is a remarkable initiative, with its focus on encouraging walking, cycling, and public transportation.

It is unclear how a pedestrian is supposed to cross a road when there is no zebra crossing or overhead bridge.

Side roads can become unregulated battles between pedestrians and cars, with some drivers patient enough to give way while others are less so and accelerate to scare pedestrians.

For the safety and comfort of all, why not paint more zebra crossings?

Pierre Duffie

UNHYGIENIC FOOD HANDLERS

At a coffee shop at Block 7 Joo Seng Road, I witnessed a mixed-vegetable rice stall vendor cough into the tray of cooked food she was serving.

In view of the recent spate of food poisoning incidents, shouldn't food handlers be taught basic hygiene such as turning away when coughing or sneezing? It is also not uncommon to find strands of hair or pieces of shell and bone from previously eaten meals in our

Food handlers like hawkers and their assistants should be made to wear masks and hairnets while serving food, to prevent hair and saliva from falling into the food. A little inconvenience can go a long way in keeping others from falling

Walter Tan Teow Hock

CHANGE TOTO PRIZE ALLOCATION

The Toto draw attracts large crowds, especially after the prize pool "snowballs" from a previous draw due to a lack of winners, yet the prize allocation remains concentrated within the first two Groups, which are those who match six winning numbers, or five numbers and the additional number.

I propose that the guaranteed cash prizes for those who match between three and four winning numbers be increased, with those who match three numbers getting \$50 instead of \$10 for example, to make a larger number of people happy.

Robert Ong Keng Hock

Don't use 'budget' excuse to explain away delay failings

I share some of the sentiments expressed by Mr Gerard de Vaz regarding the differences in service expected from Scoot and Singapore Airlines (Not fair to compare Scoot and SIA; Jan 9).

However, the quality of service

frequent delays. Surely Scoot's operating philosophy cannot be that it expects passengers to accept inconvenience just because it is a budget carrier?

When faced with such long should not be vastly different when idelays, Scoot needs to minimise the it comes to the handling of long and : disruption to its flight schedule by

having, for example, aircraft on standby or an agreement to transfer passengers to other airlines. While this will obviously incur higher costs, Scoot should be mindful that they have a reputation to uphold. Passengers will appreciate the effort made. Tan Jiak Ngee



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PICTURE THIS



Having a blast

The firecrackers may be just a little too loud for these spectators at the Chinese New Year street light-up and opening ceremony held in Chinatown on Jan 3, 2009.

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